

PRETENSE, POWER AND PATRIOTISM

D. W. DAVIS AT THE BAT

Strike One

This is the letter which Mr. Davis ADMITS having written in solicitation of the Nonpartisan League's endorsement for the governorship.

This is the letter which Mr. Davis CLAIMS to have written on July 2nd but which as a matter of fact was dictated in Boise, September 23, after Mr. Davis discovered that Mr. Taylor had turned over to the League Davis' letter of July 1st.

HERE ARE FACTS IN THE CASE

July 2, 1918.

Hon. S. D. Taylor,
Boise, Idaho.
My dear Taylor:

Hon. S. D. Taylor, State Chairman,
Boise, Idaho.
My dear Taylor:

July 14, 1918.

In further reference to our conversation over the phone today, will say that I have never for a moment questioned the loyalty of the farmers of Idaho, nor their right to organize and by organization advance their interest. If the Nonpartisan League of Idaho should endorse me for governor I should accept with appreciation. I can not conceive of a situation in which any man worthy to be elected governor of this state should not appreciate the support of the farmers and working men of Idaho.

Yours truly, D. W. DAVIS.

I cannot recall a time when I have been persuaded to compromise on convictions that I did not regret it and I still feel just as I did last night on the question of the League's endorsement with Townley, Coats and others at the head of it,—it means no good for this state or nation, and is bound to create an agitation which our government desires to avoid in this hour of our country's peril. (While a very large percent of the Idaho members are loyal, patriotic American citizens, yet I feel they are being deceived and misled.)

I cannot make myself believe that such loyalty and love of country is any part of the motive behind the leaders. I think the mothers and fathers who have sons in this great war will think of what this untried propaganda has done for the people of Russia before casting their ballot. While my letter was written at your earnest solicitation for your use, stating that I would not repudiate the indorsement of the farmers of Idaho, still I feel that while the indorsement of the Nonpartisan League might be desirable from a political standpoint, that is not worth purchasing at the price of my conscientious convictions, and therefore I request that you make no use of the letter secured from me.

Yours truly, D. W. DAVIS.

Did Mr. Davis desire the indorsement of the Nonpartisan League?
Can a man be frivolous today and sincere tomorrow? Can such a man be trusted in the Governor's chair?

"The foolish man writeth a letter and the letter riseth up and smiteth him in the bezer."—Polack proverb.

Strike Two

Commissioner Freehafer's report to Governor:

Auditor Hassan's report to Utilities Commission:
STATE OF IDAHO
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
October 16, 1918.

The Startling facts, in brief

STATE OF IDAHO
Public Utilities Commission,
BOISE

File No. 23002
October 16, 1918.

Hon. M. Alexander, Governor,
Boise, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

Upon receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., relative to the charge that the Idaho Power company was furnishing to D. W. Davis of American Falls, Idaho, electric service without compensation, we instructed our auditor to investigate the service being furnished Mr. Davis by the Idaho Power company to ascertain what payments, if any, have been made for such service.

We are enclosing herewith copy of report of our auditor made as a result of such investigation and examination. This report speaks for itself.

You will no doubt desire to submit the legal questions involved to the attorney general and we are enclosing extra copy of our auditor's report for your use in the event you desire to submit the matter to the attorney general.

Yours very truly,
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO.

By A. L. Freehafer, Commissioner.

"He who taketh something for nothing robbeth his neighbors who have to pay."—Bwamba Tulu.

Mr. A. L. Freehafer,
Mr. George E. Erb,
Commissioners,
Boise, Idaho.
Gentlemen

Upon investigation of the furnishing of electrical energy without cost by the Idaho Power company to D. W. Davis, a citizen of American Falls, Idaho, the following data was obtained from the office of the Idaho Power company at American Falls:

INSTALLATIONS
Air Heating—Installed capacity 22 Kilowatts. This installation was prior to January, 1916. No record as to exact date of installation. The records show that this service is not disconnected in the summer months.
Range—Installed June, 1914, Kind simplex 9 K, capacity 8575 watts. No meter installed on this service until May 20, 1918, and the reading between May 20 and September 20, 1918, was 195 K. W., it being understood that the Davis family were away from home for more than two months of this period.
Water Heater—There is a 1 K. W. Heater installed in the Davis home and from the records it is evident that the water heater was in service prior to January 1916.
Lights—Meter was installed on lights May 8, 1918, and a reading between May 8th and September 20, 1918, shows 144 K. W., this too, covering the period of time during which Mr. and Mrs. Davis were away from American Falls as above indicated.
Small Cooking Appliances—A meter was installed on these appliances in April, 1918, and a reading between that date and September 20th shows 54 Kilowatt hours. It is understood by the Manager at American Falls that the Davis home has installed under heading of Small Cooking Appliances a toaster, percolator, Brokaw-Eden washing machine and electric iron.
A careful investigation of the records of the Idaho Power company at American Falls indicates that no charge has been made for the service indicated. It has been acknowledged by the Manager, St. Anthony, and the District Manager, Mr. Neeley, that this service has been furnished to D. W. Davis for sometime past. Inasmuch as the records prior to 1918 could not be located (and for the purpose of this investigation did not consider it essential) I did not attempt to go any further back than 1916. It was found that a 15 K. W. transformer is installed at the Davis home in order to take care of their needs and it was understood that this transformer could be overloaded 50 per cent.

The meters installed at the Davis home were not installed at the request of Mr. Davis, or at the request of the Idaho Power company, the local manager, Mr. Anthony, taking this action in order to account for considerable line loss for which he had not been able to account. The electrical energy used by the Davis home is now, and has been for some time past, charged to line loss.

The writer requested of the District Manager, Mr. Neeley, and the Local Manager, Mr. Anthony, authority for furnishing Mr. Davis with electrical energy without charge, both gentlemen stating that there was no authority, but that these conditions existed prior to their entering the employ of the company, and nothing further than verbal instructions had ever been given either of them.

There is nothing in the office of the Idaho Power company at American Falls to indicate that any other service was furnished free to Mr. Davis or to anyone else at American Falls.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) F. W. HANSSAN, Auditor.

Can Mr. Davis accept free service from the Power Trust and be uninfluenced by that service?
Does a Power company give a man his power for nothing unless there is SOMETHING it wants and expects to get?
Is a man who is so close to the Power Trust that his lights and heat are furnished free, a SAFE man for Governor?

"The bull with a ring in his nose belloweth much but followeth just the same."—Epizootic Proverb.

Strike Three

Mr. Davis has failed to explain what value in services or ANYTHING ELSE he ever gave or PROPOSES to GIVE to the Power Trust of Idaho for the electric Power Trust furnishes WITHOUT LIMIT, MEASUREMENT OR CHARGE to the Davis home. Mr. Davis has failed to produce a contract showing he is entitled to receive electricity from the Power Trust without limit, without measurement or without charge.

THAT CONTRACT—WHERE IS IT? Shall your next governor be a man who ADMITS accepting services from the Idaho Power Trust or any other corporation, without an accounting therefor? Will you permit a "home run" to the Governor's chair on that sort of record?