

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

have a good reputation for moral and sensible living in the community of Harriman and parts of Tennessee.

The school has a valuable plant, and my hope is that it will be speedily reorganized so that the people for whom the school exists can really be benefited. I believe it is possible to so reorganize and overhaul the school both in its officers and work so as to make it of real service.

[Booker T. Washington]

TLd Con. 593 BTW Papers DLC. Two penciled insertions in BTW's hand. On stationery of Tuskegee Institute.

From Emmett Jay Scott

Montgomery, Ala. Dec. 2/09

Dear Mr. W. I have telegraphed you the Underwood attitude. He was very kind in listening to me & I certainly went after him as earnestly as I could, but he is afraid — that was very plain. He spoke of being the 2d leader on the democratic side & said that if politics sh'd be played for or against the measure<sup>1</sup> he w'd have to be free & that he c'd not promise in advance to introduce the bill till he had talked with his colleagues & that it w'd take him 4 or 5 days to decide as to their attitude. I told him it is advisable to have the bill introduced the first day following the President's message & he said under all the circumstances he c'd not do that.

I told him that you had mentioned his name to President Taft. He said that was kind but in 1915 he may have to fight for an exposition for Birmingham & wants to keep his powder dry. He promises earnest support when measure is introduced but that is as far as he w'd go. Mr Thompson went with me to see him. I got there at 1 pm & Underwood left at 3. I had to go to the Depot to see him. I am sorry of the outcome. I know of no other man to introduce the bill. I hope some good republican may be found.

Emmett J. Scott

ALS Con. 898 BTW Papers DLC.

<sup>1</sup> A bill to seek appropriations for a Negro exposition to be held in 1913 on the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation.