

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

case that I thought the President might like to act upon at once.

Walter L. Cohen, of New Orleans, who holds the position either of Receiver of Public Money or Register of the Land Office in New Orleans, has never been reappointed. His time expired over a year ago. Two colored men have disappeared from Presidential offices in New Orleans since the present administration came in. This, together with the failure to reappoint Cohen has served to add to the bitterness throughout the country. Since Cohen is already holding the office, and in my opinion would have no trouble in being confirmed when the Senate meets, I believe it would be a fine stroke just now for the President to reappoint him at once. The element of colored people that are opposed to President Taft under Bishop Walters and others, hold a meeting in Atlantic City August 4th. Aside from throwing a damper on this meeting, Cohen's appointment just now would help the situation in Ohio as he is well known in that state. If the President decides to reappoint him, will you be kind enough to send me a telegram even before it is given out officially so that I can get the matter in the colored press next week in order for it to have its effect on the Atlantic City meeting. Yours truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

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¹ Charles Dyer Norton (1871-1922), who had been a Chicago life insurance executive (1895-1909) and assistant secretary of the treasury (1909-10), was President Taft's secretary in 1910-11. He moved to New York as vice-president of the First National Bank of New York, and was a director of a number of corporations.

To William Howard Taft

Huntington, N.Y. August 3d, 1910

My dear Mr. President: This is just a little note to remind you of your kind suggestion about speaking to Mr. Frick¹ concerning the needs of our institution at Tuskegee.

If it will not embarrass you in any way to mention it, I think he might become interested in enlarging our endowment. It is now a million and a half dollars and ought to be four millions.