

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

Fourth or Fifth — I took the train at once and went to Galveston to confer with Congressman Hawley and to San Antonio, to see Mr. Cuney. These gentlemen are *political* friends of mine. I only arrived this evening at 5 o'clock and was handed a copy of each of your telegrams. Mrs. Scott tells me that she sent you a telegram last night telling you of my absence from the city. I hasten to reply to both of them. As I wrote to you before I am not only anxious, but more than willing to come to Tuskegee, but I find just *at this time* that I am handicapped by conditions. I have sought to control the post-mastership at this place and am assured positively that it will turn out alright. Mr. Hawley who is the only republican congressman from Texas is with me and is the McKinley manager in Texas. They insist that my going just at this time will be to sacrifice those friends — both white & black, who have sustained me at all times, and under all circumstances. The appointment is to be made for Houston about the 21st of September. If I go at this time I shall vacate the chairmanship of the county executive committee and sacrifice their candidate just about the time that his appointment is assured.

I hope you see just what my position at this time is. But in spite of this I will come *at once* if you cannot, or rather are not disposed to allow me until the 21st, to come there. Is it not possible to supply my place until that time? I am not unconscious of the fact that I am asking almost too much of you since you have acceded to my every request. Then I know too that my place can be easily supplied if you are not willing to forbear longer. I shall be glad to have a wire from you upon receipt of this, either asking my immediate presence, or granting this request for a little longer stay here. I beg to assure you that I am not insensible to the consideration shown me by you and I shall more than deserve it by hard work and assiduous devotion to you and your interests. Very Faithfully Yours,

Emmett J. Scott

P.S. If you can make no arrangement for less than a month, I shall be satisfied & will come thirty days from this time.

ALS Con. 272 BTW Papers DLC.