

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

so as to turn the tide if necessary. As for myself I have lost faith in him. While speaking of Hitchcock it might be well for me to recall to you that in keeping with your advice when I went to Washington in December I called on Hitchcock three times. At no time did I get any satisfaction out of him. His last advice was to go home and act along with Pearl Wight and I told him I did not see my way clear to do this when he told me well if you don't you will be shut out [of] the convention. He no doubt will try and keep his word.

As I wrote you I am expecting to leave here Tuesday night unless you write or wire me you will leave during the week. In that event I shall wait for you.

With best wishes I am, as ever, Yours faithfully,

Walter L. Cohen

TLS Con. 40 BTW Papers DLC.

To William Howard Taft

[Tuskegee, Ala.] June 3, 1908

Personal and Confidential

My dear Secretary Taft: I am writing on a very confidential subject and one on which I fear you will think I am meddling into matters in which I am not concerned.

But I must say that I consider it will be a great mistake if Mr. Luke Wright is made your successor. It will place a heavy additional burden upon your canvass after the nomination. Rightfully or wrongfully, the masses of the colored people have the feeling that Mr. Luke Wright is responsible for the interjection of much color prejudice in the Philippines. They have the feeling that he was not in favor of giving the Filipinos a square deal by reason of their color. Aside from all this, he is a Democrat, and our enemies are making a good deal over the fact, or trying to do so, that the President is a Southern Democrat. You know my own personal feeling in regard to these matters is in the direction of liberality and common sense, but just now I feel it would be a pretty danger-