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ous experiment to place Mr. Luke Wright Secretary of War. If you feel that I ought to say this to the President I shall be very glad to do so.

There are already many apparent signs to the effect that our enemies are waiting to seize hold of this appointment and use it for all that it is worth against you and the President. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

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To William Howard Taft

[Tuskegee, Ala.] June 3, 1908

Personal

My dear Secretary Taft: I have just sent you a telegram in answer to yours of May 28th reading as follows:

“After thinking matter over carefully think W. H. Lewis of Boston would be a safe and good person to second nomination. Of course I presume you realize that Lewis is not a delegate or alternate and will have to get a proxy.”

After consider[ing] the matter fully I rather think that Lewis is the best man to second the nomination. There are several elements of weakness in his case, but there are also elements of strength. In the first place, he will be sure to make a capital speech and a good impression on the Convention. One of the elements of weakness is the fact that he is an office holder and is not a delegate but, as I have suggested, he can of course secure a proxy. It is much better to have a colored man from the North than from the South.

I hope to send you tomorrow a suggestion for a plank in the platform at Chicago referring to our race.

I shall hope to see you within a few days. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

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