

DECEMBER • 1908

To William Howard Taft

Hotel Manhattan, New York. Dec. 1, 1908

Personal

My dear Judge Taft: I have taken the liberty of letting Mr. Page see the suggestions which Mr. Scott handed you to be incorporated into your speech at the North Carolina dinner, and Mr. Page approves heartily of all that is contained in the memorandum.

It was very kind of you to send me word through Mr. Scott that you wish to consult with me fully and freely on all racial matters during your administration.¹ I assure you I shall be glad to place myself at your service at all times. I want no office whatever; I simply desire to serve you in any capacity that you desire at any time. The greatest satisfaction that has come to me during the administration of President Roosevelt is the fact that perhaps I have been of some service to him in helping to raise the standard of colored people holding office under him; in helping him to see that they were men of character and ability; in that way I am sure that President Roosevelt has helped the whole race. If I can in any degree serve you in the same manner I shall be most happy. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLS William Howard Taft Papers DLC. A draft dated Nov. 30, 1908, is in Con. 6, BTW Papers, DLC.

¹ Taft replied: "I need not repeat what I said to Mr. Scott, but I certainly shall expect to call on you at all times to assist me in matters with reference to the colored people in my administration. Of course, I cannot say that I shall always follow your judgment, and you would not exact that promise; but you know I have always valued it." (Dec. 3, 1908, Con. 7, BTW Papers, DLC.)

From Jane Casey¹

Roanoke City [Va.] December the 1 1908

dear frind I will take pleasure in ansern your kind leter that I receav from you the 28 of Nov. and was glad to receav the money that you send which was \$400 dalars. More than glad to receav it