February 28, 1964

AIRMAIL - PERSONAL

Honorable Richard Russell
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Dick:

We have a great newspaper here and I believe it's editorial page is almost as good as this great man David Lawrence. I see where the Mobile Register - in good old Mobile where they all love Dick Russell - has written a very good editorial about you.

I wish somebody would put this into the Congressional Record and send copies all over this country. The people need a little "pepping-up". Anyway, I know that you, too, need it sometime when you are fighting almost single-handed for the great principles which has made this country. Anyway, I am proud of this editorial and I'm proud of you - and I'll always remember when Colonel Albert Ernest of the St. Regis Paper Company and I went to Chicago to help make you President of the United States.

There is no doubt about it - you were the best man. But they said you were from the wrong part of the country. Someday, as sure as you and I are sitting here, that will be changed; and all I want to do is to try to encourage you a little bit to keep on keeping on and to keep fighting and try to save some part of our way of life -- which is the best way on this earth. I did that and they fought me and fought me hard -- I don't mind atall, I'm going to keep on fighting. I'm not going to run for office anymore; although when I did run, I carried my district. But they made it a state-wide race and some of my old buddies in the Congress went against me pretty hard -- so we lost out.

It's a good thing for me because I had served long enough. I had served there in the House side of the Congress of the United States as long as any other man from Alabama. They came pretty near getting Lister -- I helped him all that I could. And while I don't agree with everything that Lister Hill does or has done or will do, he has been my friend and I fought for him like a tiger. We won although they sure fought him. They were not against Lister; however, they were against the Kennedy administration at that time. If Lister Hill never does

anything else but handle and put though the great Hill-Burton Hospital Bill, he will have done enough. However, he is always doing good and he and his wonderful wife were hurt badly when they fought him so hard down in his old home town.

Well, we carried this part of the country for the Kennedy administration but we lost Montgomery, the Capital of this great State, and I think that hurt Lister awfully bad because it was his old home. But again I will repeat that it wasn't Lister they were after.

Things are really torn up as far as the Democratic Party is concerned in Alabama. There is no doubt about it. Of course, the same holds true in Georgia -- but you, our great and good Senator Richard B. Russell, have never slackened a minute but have fought and fought like a tiger. I know you are going to do this as long as God lets you keep breath in your body and you don't know how the people appreciate you. So many of them just take you for granted. What a great President you would have made and still would make. You and also that great and good old Harry Byrd of Old Virginia.

Albert Ernest and I went there fully prepared to help you everyway in the world; and especially, financially. Many men, some of whom you would be surprised, told us to spend whatever was necessary to get you nominated. There was no chance -- the cards were stacked against us -- but they did all admit that you were the best man. And, they still do. Don't get lonesome when you don't hear from the people; as I have said, they take you for granted.

You have done such a great job as a citizen of Georgia, as a Governor of Georgia, and as a United States Senator for Georgia there in the Capital of the United States. People, everywhere I have been - here and abroad - love and respect our own great, Southern Senator, Richard B. Russell.

We just wanted to let you know we are thinking about you and the work you have done just like we think about David Lawrence. I think he has done a great job and is and always will. But there are not enough of you -- maybe things will change for the better. That is what I'm hoping for; that's what I'm working for; and that's what I'm praying for. God knows what is best and if we will keep on keeping on just a little harder and a little longer, we will come into what is right. Anyway, I want you to know that if you can think of anything that I can do, now or at any other time, here or there or anywhere, all you have to do is to just let us know.

I don't know whether you like to turkey hunt or not but if you do, we have the best place in the world. Bob Sikes, Mendel Rivers and about a dozen of the boys will be coming down in April. We have the best game

preserve, so everybody says, on earth. We saw over 300 wild turkeys there this past Sunday afternoon driving through the grounds of our hunting lodge -- and how I would love to have you. And you can bring anybody whom you would like.

Whether you hear from me or the rest of the people often they are depending on you -- don't you ever forget that. We are depending on you on this fight, now. I know that you will do your best and that is all the Good Lord and the people ask us to do. In my book you are the best -- you have always been the best and always will.

I believe that if you had been elected President of the United States that you would have made a better President than our own great George Washington. I know how President Lyndon Johnson used to think of you and how he used to love and respect you; and, I believe he does now. I hope you will stick close to him and try to help him and guide him in these terrible times. You and I know that right will always prevail.

I just wanted to say a word of encouragement so that you would not be disheartened because you've fought such an "up-hill" fight and for so long.

May God bless you and help and keep you and your wonderful family down in Georgia - and give you the strength to carry on there in the Senate of the United States. We'll be thinking, pulling and praying for our great hero, our great Southerner, Senator Richard B. Russell. God bless you again, now and forever.

Your old friend,

Frank W. Boykin

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