



A. F. of L. OFFICE  
509 Lyric Building  
Birmingham, Ala.  
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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WILLIAM GREEN, President  
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

R. F. FINKLEY, Organizer  
702 Wilkerson Street

MOBILE, ALA.  
February 16, 1943

RECEIVED  
FEB 18 1943  
Governor's Office

The Honorable Chauncey Sparks, Governor  
The State of Alabama  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama

Honorable Sir:

I noticed in The Mobile Press Register under date of Sunday, February 7, 1943, that you addressed a county-wide Negro Bond Rally on Saturday, February 6, 1943, and that during the course of your address you pledged to the Negroes of Alabama "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, JUST AND FAIR TREATMENT".

As a Negro citizen, born, reared, and still residing in the State of Alabama, I offer my congratulations to you for your courageous and democratic pledge, hoping that by the Grace of God and the power already given you, you will be able during your administration to see your pledge become a reality. I am more than sure that the Negroes will ask for no more than what you have pledged. In those six words—EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, JUST AND FAIR TREATMENT—is the type of democracy that this country of ours is fighting to secure and to maintain. At a time like this, no greater statement could have been made that would tend to build up the morale and courage of the loyal, patriotic Negroes of the Great Commonwealth of the State of Alabama.

Undoubtedly you have already received other favorable comments. I feel that you should be complimented and encouraged for your righteous convictions as well as being condemned and criticized for your wrong convictions. Again, may I say that I feel you are going to be the greatest Governor for the State of Alabama of all times, according to the spirit you have already exemplified. I believe I am speaking the sentiments of thousands of Negroes in Alabama.

With best wishes for a successful and prosperous career as Governor, I am

Respectfully yours,

*R. F. Finkley*  
R. F. Finkley  
A.F. of L. General Organizer

February 18, 1943

R. F. Finkley  
A. F. of L. Office  
509 Lyric Building  
Birmingham, Alabama

Sir:

Thank you for your very kind letter  
to Governor Sparks under date of February 16,  
1943.

Yours truly,

GEO. BLISS JONES,  
Secretary.

GBJ:V