

The Joseph Fels Fund of America

Commercial Tribune Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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26th Decr. 1910.

Mr. A. C. Pleydell,
29 Broadway, N. Y. City.

My dear Pleydell:

I was much pleased to receive the page of the Public with your marginal note, and I was equally pleased to hear from several others that you were desirous of not being further misunderstood as to your interest in future efforts of the Fels Fund Commission.

Referring now to Woodrow Wilson, enclosed copy of letter I have just written him may interest you, and I want you to believe that I found pleasure in writing him as I did. I am always glad to find myself in error in regard to a man of whom I had thought ~~him~~ as one permitting himself to be a tool of privilege. Post says Wilson's declaration for the will of the majority to rule in the election of United States Senators puts him "farther to the front in the democracy of the Democratic Party than ever before, on what is coming to be the test question - the principle and practice of people's rule".

It is good to see Wilson going to the front in that particular and while that does not say how far advanced he is, I hope he will keep going until he goes the whole way.

Believe me it is intensely gratifying to see you boosting a man who is travelling the road to "the principle and practice of the people's rule". As Post says "that is coming to be the test question", and if you look at it long enough, I believe you will see that the Single Tax is only part of that big question. I say this to you because you don't take much stock in the Initiative and Referendum and other tools "of the people's rule". In fact the Initiative and referendum is the tool chest of the people's rule and now that Wilson is in favor of one tool - direct election of Senators - I hope he will soon see the advantage of having the whole tool chest in the hands of the people.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Yours,

Dictated but not read.

11483



Cincinnati, Ohio December 20, 1910

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,

Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Sir; -

The position you have taken in the New Jersey Senatorial contest is one that should have support of every democrat to whom democracy means something more than the wearing of a party label and mechanically voting a party ticket. The State of New Jersey is fortunate indeed and so is the democratic party of the State that the new Governor - elect has the courage and energy to oppose the designs of plutocratic corruptionists masquerading as democrats.

In expressing my admiration of your course I cannot avoid adding thereto regret that such conduct on the part of governors elected on the democratic ticket is only too rare. Situations similar to the New Jersey one exist elsewhere but unfortunately they are not being dealt with in the same way.

I must confess I have not always thought so well of you. Last summer I had quite an extended correspondence Mr. Richard Childs of the Short Ballot League in the course of which reference was made to your connection with that organization and I took occasion to express the opinion I then firmly held that you were the favorite candidate of plutocracy for the democratic presidential nomination.

Since then I have come to feel that in all probability I was mistaken. While your reported opposition to such true democratic measures as the initiative and referendum leave something lacking in your democracy, it is clear that the predatory interests will not consider you the candidate for them. The party and the country need more men like you in places of power.

Respectfully yours,

Daniel Kiefer