

BRANDEIS, DUNBAR & NUTTER.

161 DEVONSHIRE STREET,

BOSTON, MASS. May 16, 1916

10.30

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E.F.McC.

I wired you late last evening on this question of responsibility. I think that if possible Washington ought not to be in a position of assuming no responsibility for things to which they have given approval.

I have taken up with Anderson the situation this morning, and understand from him that he is likewise very doubtful about the expediency of this meeting. He says, however, that from his own talk with the Attorney General and Secretary McAdoo, they both felt that it would be of assistance to have some positive statements from this community to offset the other side. I told him just as I have told you that if we have the votes it is foolish to take the chances of this meeting, but that if we have not the votes and this meeting is absolutely necessary to give some idea of the feeling in the home community, then the chances will have to be taken. In any event, if the meeting has got to take place it ought to be very carefully conducted.

I have suggested to Anderson for him to go out personally and see President Eliot, and not take any members of the committee with him unless possibly C. P. Hall. I understand from a talk that President Eliot had with W.H.D. recently, he thought the proceedings in Washington were becoming disgraceful, and that with that attitude in view and particularly Lowell's letter

saying every one was entitled to his own opinion, President Eliot might at this juncture feel that he could take a hand. If this could be steered, it would really be sufficient, because hardly anybody could undo what Eliot would be likely to do at the meeting. I likewise suggested to Anderson that Eliot even if he would not speak might have some suggestions which would be valuable.

I hope your report with regard to the condition of things is correct. It seems to me that the sooner this matter is brought to a vote, the better. I am afraid that Rublee's rejection may not operate in our favor unless some care is exercised to bring about a reaction. The argument could well be put to senators whether they were going to turn down their own party nominations in succession in this way, and very likely such an argument would be of some effect.