

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
September 16, 1906

Hon. Whit Lafon
Attorney at Law
111 Baltimore
Jackson, Tennessee

Dear Walt:

I have received a copy of your nice letter to Mr. Tom Robinson. Please be assured that I appreciate this very much. As I explained to you earlier I am very much interested in Bert.

When I finished law school, his father, E. C. Durham, Jr., offered me a place in his law office and I turned it down saying that I wanted to go to Memphis. I knocked on the door of nearly every lawyer in Memphis in June, 1903, and could not even find desk space. His father was kind enough to overlook my first refusal and to render me a place in his law firm. Without his help I don't know whether I would have been able to stay in the practice of law or not. By the way, it was in Mr. Durham's office that I first met and was attracted to Albert Gore. It was in 1907 when Albert was Commissioner of Labor under Governor Browning. Fort Pillow Penal Farm had just been opened and Albert was then trying to straighten out some patronage affairs.

Bert became interested in the law somewhat late in life (he is now 36) and has been practicing only three years. Maybe this was because Mr. Durham and I were overly anxious for him to become a lawyer.

As is oftentimes the case with sons who have been overly indulged Bert did not really find himself until after the death of his father in October, 1906. After Mr. Durham died, Bert lived in our home with Mrs. Carney and me until he married. He has a bright mind, his habits are exemplary. He is very anxious for the appointment. He has a strong desire for public service and was elected a member of the Quarterly County Court in the August, 1906, general election. I firmly believe that the appointment will give him some prestige as well as a challenge to make full use of his talents. I feel that

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within a very short time he will prove to be a very valuable and outstanding
assistant to Gen. Robinson.

Again let me say to you I appreciate very much your nice letter. I am sending
a copy of this letter to Gen. Core and to Gen. Robinson.

Yours very truly,

C. S. Casney, Jr.

CSC/mt