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THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS CO.,
PROPRIETORS

The Birmingham News

THE SOUTH'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

January 13th 1927

Mrs. James J. Mayfield,
South Perry Street,
Montgomery, Ala.

My dear Mrs. Mayfield:

Referring to our conversation of yesterday, relative to the indebtedness of Judge Mayfield to The Birmingham News and The Montgomery Advertiser for political advertising during the recent Senatorial campaign:

I have thought a good deal about the matter since your visit, and the more I think about it, the more I am convinced of the propriety of handling it as I shall take the liberty of suggesting below. You may or may not know, but during the campaign, I expressed a desire to contribute \$2,500 to Judge Mayfield's campaign. Viewing the matter from his own standpoint and after some thought, he declined to accept any contributions. However, he stated that if I would grant him credit, he would like to do considerable advertising in my two newspapers. To this request I readily acceded, determined in my own mind that, if his campaign were unsuccessful, I should never permit him to pay for the advertising. If he had been successful and had tendered payment, I should probably have accepted it, but if defeated, my mind was fully made up that the advertising should go as a campaign contribution on my part.

My thought about the matter was this: Judge Mayfield had spent his life in service to the people of Alabama. Had he devoted his talents to the amassing of a private fortune, the chances are that his fine mind and great ability would have been successful in acquiring a comfortable private income. But he had chosen to spend his life in effective service to the people. I felt that he was eminently qualified for the office and that he would reflect honor upon the State, were he elected to the Senate. I felt that, as a citizen of Alabama, able to do so, I should contribute to his campaign as a very small token of appreciation of what his life and career had meant to the State. Had he been successful in his campaign, with assurance of a handsome salary for six years, the case would have been different; but as he was unsuccessful and as he made the race on principles that appealed to me, I felt that it was not only my right, but more or less of a duty to assist in financing his campaign.

The exact amount of advertising he used in my two papers I do not recall. It was roughly in the neighborhood of \$1,500, which was less than the amount that I had felt it was proper to contribute toward his campaign expenses.

The matter has some time ago been handled that way on our books and is no longer charged against Judge Mayfield. Therefore, I think you should properly let it stand as it is, namely, as a campaign contribution in appreciation

Mrs. James J. Mayfield--#2.

of Judge Mayfield's service to the people of Alabama and of his unusual fitness for the office of United States Senator.

With assurances of my profound sympathy in the great loss to you personally and to the people of the State,

Sincerely,

J. H. Hanson