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Title: Letter from Roger B. Taney to Edward Lloyd (Draft)

Date: October 25, 1830

Location: I-SpahrB-1941-1

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Baltimore Feb. 25. 1836

My Dear Sir

I should have replied to your former letter as soon as I received it - but as Mr. Noble had not communicated to me his intention to resign I felt unwilling to designate his successor, ~~and therefore I have not done so~~ - and as I have not yet heard any thing from him on the subject, I can now only state to you the principles by which I have thought it right to be governed in the selection of my Deputies -

It has been my fixed opinion that my ~~Office~~ ^{Office} should not be used for party purposes - In the first place it is ~~too~~ ^{too} intimately connected with the administration of justice in its most important department, ~~that~~ ~~we should~~ ~~to allow~~ ~~party~~ ~~considerations~~ ~~to~~ ~~interfere~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~discharge~~ ~~of~~ ~~any~~ ~~of~~ ~~its~~ ~~duties~~ ~~and~~ ~~it~~ ~~ought~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~administered~~ ~~in~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~ ~~manner~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~and~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~that~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~calculated~~ ~~to~~ ~~shake~~ ~~the~~ ~~confidence~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~in~~ ~~its~~ ~~strict~~ ~~impartiality~~ -

In the second place I received the appointment from a party to whom I was then I still am in decided I open opposition, and I ought not to have accepted it at their hands

if I had not made up my mind not to use
it as a political Engine against them - ^{Because} ~~But~~
I could not but feel that while they made
the appointment without reference to
party influence, they ^{had a right to} ~~had a right to~~
that if I accepted it - it would be accepted in the
~~spirit of impartiality in which it was offered~~
~~and administered accordingly~~
~~and administered accordingly~~
~~and administered accordingly~~

Baltimore Octr. 25. 1830

My Dear Sir,

I should have replied to your former letter as soon as I received it -- but as Mr. Noble had not communicated to me his intention to resign I felt unwilling to designate his successor. And as I have not yet heard anything from him on the subject, I can now only state to you the principles by which I have thought it right to be governed in the selection of my deputies --

It had been my fixed opinion that my office ought not to be used for party purposes -- In the first place it is too intimately connected with the administration of justice in its most important Department (!), and nothing should be done that would be calculated to shake the confidence of the public in its strict impartiality--

In the second place I received the appointment from a party to whom I was then & still am in decided & open opposition. And I ought not to have accepted it at their hands

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if I had not made up my mind not to use it as a political Engine against them -- Because I could not but feel that while they made the appointment without reference to party influence, they had a right to that if I accepted it -- it would be accepted in the spirit of impartiality in which it was offered -- and administered accordingly.

Under such circumstances I think that I ought not to allow party considerations to sway me in the discharge of my official duties & the most important part of my duty is the proper selection of my deputies I have constantly acted on these principles since I have held the office you and my other friends when you deliberately consider the subject will agree with me in opinion --

I am Dr. sir very truly yours

R. B. Taney

Edward Lloyd Esqr.
Easton