

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

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

Date: October 25, 1830

Location: I-SpahrB-1941-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

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~~ ^{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

[Draft of a letter to Edward Lloyd]

Baltimore, Oct. 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. [phrase excised] 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 [phrase excised] office ought not to be used for party purposes. In the first place it is [word excised] too intimately connected with the administration of justice in its most important department, [phrase excised] and nothing should be done [phrase excised] 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

[page 2]

if I had not made up my mind not to use it as a political Engine against them. [word excised] Because I could not but feel that while they made the appointment without reference to party influence, they [phrase excised] 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 consideration to sway me in [phrase excised] the discharge of my official duties & the most important part of my duty is the proper selection of my deputies. [phrase excised] 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 Esq.
Easton