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Letter from John Waddell, et al. to George Sibley, July 17, 1834

John S. Waddell

John Bedford Sr.

D. D. Berry

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George Sibley
St Charles
St Charles County
Mo-

Jn^o. S. Waddell p.D.D.Berry
Jno. Bedford Sr.
D. D. Berry
July 17, (1834) ?

Springfield Mo

Dear Sir,

We have thought proper to address you in reference to the proper political attitude for our party to assume between the two contending parties in the State "Cliquo" and the Liberals. It must be obvious to all that our united efforts will be attended with important results. We confidently believe that the "Hards" are busily at work in every portion of the State to neutralize the Whigs in the war that now is raging in the Democratic ranks. That such is the movement made in this section of the State we have no doubt. How shall we act in this Controversy is the important question? For many reasons the Whigs in this section of the State are determined to support the Liberal Ticket. We approximate nearer to them in our views of state policy. We shall with their aid be able to district the State, and thereby secure to ourselves a representation in Congress, Amend the Constitution, and defeat the reelection of Benton to the Senate &c.

Will it not require our undivided efforts to accomplish these important objects? We unhesitatingly believe it will. The election of "Hard" Ticket itself will do much to secure the reelection of Thos. H. Benton to the Senate. The few Liberals that may be elected to the Legislature in opposition to Benton seeing their leaders discomfited will at once stack their arms and surrender themselves prisoners of war to the Benton "Cliquo" Shall we stand by and see a result so disastrous produced? When we can defeat it without compromising our principles?

To conciliate the good opinion of the liberal Democrats, we must support them throughout. And then they will doubtless aid us in accomplishing objects which are dear to our party and the attainment of which with us has been the labor of years. If we fail in this we fear we shall still made "hewers of wood and drawers of water." The Liberal party have every reason to believe we will give them a united support, and if we deceive them by suffering the leaders of their party to be beaten,- From a feeling of chagrin, disappointment, and revenge, we are fearful they will do all in their power to retaliate upon us- We cannot carry out our designs without their support, and hence we should all in our power to receive it in the next Legislature. An idea has been instilled into the minds of some of unsuspecting Whigs that we cannot consistently support the Liberals because they are running under the general Ticket System-. We think otherwise. A Judge may and is even bound to consider a law Constitutional which has been adjudged to be so. Just so with the present mode of electing members to Congress.

We believe it to be illegal, but it has been decided otherwise by the Congress of the U. S. In politics as well as law precedent should be respected- Mr. Jefferson sanctioned a bill to establish a Branch of U. S. Bank in a certain portion of the Union, notwithstanding some say he was opposed to the Bank itself as unconstitutional. We differ with them. We have no hesitation in Saying, that the ---(?) are now traversing the State pouring poison into the minds of unguarded Whigs and Tylerites in disguise. This is no Conjecture. It is strictly true. We cannot mention names but we say to you Watch! You may be assured that the Whigs here will defend themselves and not foster such traitors in their bosom. We once thwarted in our designs by Tyler, Let

us not be again duped by his minions. Let the Whigs be united in support of the Liberals, and we shall have made an important step in the ultimate redemption and reservation of the State. If we let the "Golden Moment" pass, we shall as heretofore be ruled by a corrupt Dynasty, who even now "Seek no divided empire. We shall thereby equalize representation, district the State, secure a delegation in Congress, and more, and most of all defeat the reelection of Thos H. Benton to the Senate. It is unnecessary to remark that a due portion of the praise will enure to the benefit of the Whigs, for what can the Liberals do without us? We should then be on the alert against the machinations of the "Hards" evil counsellors, and Whigs in disguise. Present a united front on the first Monday in August and all will be right. Otherwise all will be lost. Let us not "shoot madly from our spheres, and kill the goose, to get the golden egg. We should enter the arena with cheerfulness and alacrity and not pre-termit the occasion to accomplish so much by our single act. We have thus briefly given you some of the reasons why we believe we should vote for the Whole Liberal ticket, and we sincerely hope that our opinions may prevail with you. We have received letters from the most distinguished Whigs in the State and their opinions are such as we have given you. We hope that you will Cooperate with us, and use your influence with the Whigs in your vicinity, and write without delay to our Whig Brethren in the different portions of the State.

We are Respfully Yr Obt Servt

Jno. S. Waddell, pr D.D. Berry
Jno. Bedford
D. D. Berry

Sibley Mss. V. III
Missouri Historical Society