

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE 5 TENNESSEE

Department of History

November 14, 1960

Dear Joe:

Here's your dollar! I never lost a bet more cheerfully and, the truth is, at one point early Wednesday morning (November 9) I was afraid I was going to win. I would prefer to have lost the election by a more handsome margin, but I must confess that I'm delighted to win by any margin. North Carolina did herself proud. Tennessee leaves a good deal to be desired, from the point of view of a liberal Democrat, and I'm hard put to explain the outcome. The party leaders never worked harder and the Negroes did their best -- unlike 1956 -- to save the white folks from such an egregious mistake. In one precinct in Nashville the Negroes voted almost three to one for Kennedy and Johnson, and that was the general pattern of the Negro vote throughout the state. I suppose the religious question helps explain the result; the Church of Christ people and the Baptists were certainly active. But I'm inclined to think that an awful lot of Tennessees simply want to vote Republican for economic and social reasons (though many of them won't admit it).

Did you and Lala take an active part in the North Carolina campaign? I hope that your work is going well and that all of you are having a good fall. There isn't much new with us. I didn't get to the SHA meeting but plan to attend the AHA convention. The children are all doing well and Ginny is busy with domestic chores, good causes, and her School of Social Work courses. Isaac read a paper at Tulsa. We haven't seen Ernest and Grier since they came to Murfreesboro, but we hear that they are thriving and enjoying Middle Tennessee. I found the transition from the freedom of leave to the restraints of regular academic work rather painful. The worst is over, however, and I should make the transition without too much additional anguish.

Have you had a chance to read Glad's study of William Jennings Bryan? It strikes me as being a significant book but one that may be weakened by certain omissions in its analysis of Bryan's leadership. Still, it's refreshing when compared, say, with Hofstadter's caricature in The American Political Tradition.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and Lala at Christmas. Meanwhile, Ginny joins me in warmest regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

Dwight

