

3908 Carlson Lane  
Houston, Texas 77047-1607  
December 10, 1996

The Hon. T. R. Fehrenback  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 6698  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Commissioner Fehrenbach:

I am proud of the fact that we have made history together; equally important to me is that you are a loyal friend.

My heart is full of gratitude for the promptness you took in granting my request for a recommendation to be reappointed as a commissioner. With your usual manner, I am sure you were tactful. (Smile)

I must apologize for the belatedness in recognizing your correspondence to me. Since you paved the way, I have been busy soliciting support from Democrats and Republicans. (Smile) Several individuals have written to Mr. Clay Johnson in support of my reappointment. Commissioner Nau gave me his name and address and suggested that I send a letter to Mr. Johnson, as well as a copy to him.

I am a member of the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance Board. The new executive director, Patricia Ekstrum and I work closely together and have become good friends. She is a Republican and knows several influential Republicans in the city. Patricia had me to gather a resume, newspaper clippings, etc., and she has already sent them by fax. I am beginning to feel like William B. Travis when he wrote "... God is on our side." I know God is on my side because all of my contacts are very supportive.

Thanks for sending a copy of Rodney's letter to me. However, I began to feel uneasy as to whether or not he had received it. I have encountered some delays in replies from his office because some of staff are not expedient as they should be. I called Rodney's Houston office a few days ago and asked if he had received your letter because his mail is re-routed. After I identified myself and explained the contents of your letter, I was told to fax a copy of the letter to a specific person, not to the person who has been assigned to take care of such matters.

The person with whom I spoke is aware of the relationship between Rodney and me. She indicated that Rodney had spoken of me several times. Since I do not have a fax machine, Patricia sent a fax from GHPA's office.

I have known Rodney's mom as a friend for forty years and we attend the same church. With this relationship and my being his former seventh grade history teacher, I am confident that he will 'make my case.' (Smile)

It has been a pleasure chatting, sharing and exchanging ideas with you on various occasions. I admire you for your friendliness, wisdom, wit, frankness and the fact that you live by the Code of the West. I guess I fall in two of the categories: a loyal friend and a little old lady. (Smile)

Again, thanks for talking to Governor Bush's appointments officer.

Best wishes to you and Lillian for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

*Willie Lee Gay*

Willie Lee Gay  
Texas Historical Commissioner

Enclosure

*I am not a Typist.  
Willie*