

May 19, 1933

Dr. E. S. Parker,
Ida Grove, Iowa

Dear Dr. Parker:

I have a feeling that in the course of our late conversation on politics and conservation I expressed myself rather badly, and may have left you with erroneous impressions as to my views.

Like yourself, I believe in working with the tools that we have and using them to the very best advantage, if no/ more satisfactory tools are available. I believe, as you expressed it, that as long as conservation is at least partially in politics our aims should be primarily those of guidance; at any rate until a better system has been evolved.

I feel that the main danger is that of a smoothly functioning conservation mechanism becoming upset for petty reasons not at all to the public interest. I can see in the case of our Iowa set-up some possible changes in personnel that would interfere seriously with the progress, in at least some directions, which I feel we have made. When I consider the impossible personnel of some state departments with which I am familiar I wonder just what hope there may be for conservation.

Then, again, it outrages what little sense of justice I possess to see really competent men bounced to make room for somebody else of unknown or likely of inferior caliber. A case in point was furnished recently by one of our middlewest states. I won't mention any names, but I think there is little question in your mind also that one of the strongest state game wardens in the country was ousted for practically no other than political reasons. I don't know anything about the new warden for that state, but I find difficulty in controlling a tendency to regard about everything that department attempts with something akin to personal contempt. I don't see that I need apologize for any lack of confidence, on my part, in a system that allows such things to happen.

As another illustration: I was talking a couple days ago with a lesser employee of the Iowa department, who was manifestly worried that someone was to get his job. Now this particular employee

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rates well in the department and he has done conscientious work all the way through, but despite that he could not help confessing an uneasiness that for no just reason at all someone was going to upset his "apple cart". We will get some place in conservation perhaps when really capable men are permitted to go about their duties with the understanding that if they do their work well they can expect a certain degree of security.

I hope that this letter may clear up any misconceptions that my clumsy oral presentation the other day may have left with you.

Very truly yours,

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Paul L. Errington,
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