

REPLY TO STEPHENSON

LAW OFFICE OF  
DAVID M. HOOVER  
309-310 Haynes Building,

Elkhart, Ind., March 10, 1925.

Mr. D. C. Stephenson.  
304-5 Kresge Bldg.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter dated March 7, 1925. I also received your several letters addressed to me, at intervals during and after the campaign of 1924. I take it these are circular letters which were sent to all Republican County chairmen.

I wish to take this occasion to ask you just who you are, anyway? What is your connection with the Republican party? How comes it, that you assume such a god-fatherly attitude toward us all? I cannot find that our political hand-book shows you as connected with the Republican organization in any capacity. Just why should you think that Republican County Chairmen might heed or even care to receive your abundant, gratuitous advice? Were I to write just such letters as you have been writing to me, to the county chairman of Marion county, he would immediately engross my name into his register of egotistical fools. Why do you volunteer to me that you will never be a candidate for any public office in the state of Indiana? Do you mean by that that we owe you something, and that out of the goodness of your heart you will never demand payment, or even accept it, unless we just force you? Or just what do you mean? And why do you tell me about it? It is of no interest to me. I know this county committee owes you nothing.

Your letters all disclose a very magnanimous willingness on your part to be kind of guardian in general for all Hoosierdom. I may not be up-to-date on Indiana affairs. I confess I am not aware of the state of Indiana having created any position of overlord for you, neither that our form of government has failed, thereby making it expedient for a dictator to grab the reigns.

You say we rallied to the standard of the Republican party at a time when you felt your "reputation and business future was psychologically interwoven with the success or failure of the Republican ticket." "Business future." In what business are you engaged may I ask? And just how was your reputation "interwoven" with the issues of the campaign? This is getting too deep for me. I have understood that the affairs of the Republican party become greatly involved at times, but I never knew of their getting mixed up in such a mess as you say they did, in your connection.

I fail to understand why you should assume such a paternal attitude toward me, and more than that I should assume that attitude toward you. You have given me much free and unsolicited advice. Now, permit me to advise you just this once. My advice is that you take a look at yourself as others see you, and that you withdraw your "steadying" hand from the state of Indiana and see whether it can wobble along without your generous assistance. We always did get along, somehow, without you. And I think we could manage to do it again.

Yours truly,

DAVID M. HOOVER,  
Chairman Elkhart County  
Republican Committee.