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Jim Silver to George, 3 January 1962

James W. (James Wesley) Silver (1907-1988)

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January, 3, 1962

Mr. George Romeiser
Southern Hardwood Producers
805 Sterick Building
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear George:

After your call I got to thinking (that's when I usually do it, afterwards) and I have decided to offer you a good, free enterprise proposition.

For a hundred and fifty dollars and expenses (the whole not/come to more than \$200) I'll come down to New Orleans with a speech that I will guarantee to please your audience - and if it doesn't, I'll pay my own way. At the moment, with two kids in eastern schools, I'm motivated almost entirely by the enticement of cash. But I'm sure of my product.

You mentioned that you had my article, "The Hardwood Producers Come of Age." To get the material for that I spent months going through the various hardwood lumber journals. In the article, I was pretty damned serious, but I have dozens of notes left over on the frivolous side. Mostly about the hardwood organizations of almost exactly fifty years ago. Some of this stuff is hilarious.

I have another article which you may not have, called "Paul Bunyan Comes to Mississippi," (Journal of Mississippi History) and it has a lot of stuff about what actually happened in the woods. I got this mostly from talking with the old boys, almost all of whom are now dead.

Two years, or more, ago I went to Minneapolis and delivered a talk called, "Excursion into Frustration," which was the story of my dealing with Carrier and the Univ. of Miss. Chancellor, some of which was funny and some on the tragic side. (I got \$200 for that talk.)

My idea would be to combine the best (the most humorous) of all this and come up with a really first rate speech. It would be entirely entertainment - would be pretty much the froth that I picked up in eight months of solid digging. I know it would go over.

I've done a good deal of speaking, mostly in late years on the Civil War - the the Civil War Round Tables of Atlanta, New Orleans, and last November at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (for which I got \$250). The talk I have in mind could take anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes, depending on what you might want. It might be best at a dinner.

Obviously, I don't know whether your association is interested in this sort of thing or whether you pay fees, etc. But it did strike me, after our talk, that I could do this sort of thing. It would mean a couple of days here, getting up the talk and a couple more, going to New Orleans. So though wouldn't be any undue profit.

Yours,

Jim Silver