

republican caucus nominee, opposed to all fusion principles. (Signed)

C. M. LEMAR.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 5th day of May, 1900.

N. LEAL,  
Notary Public.

REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM.

State of Nebraska, Harlan county, ss. F. Cunningham, being first duly sworn, on oath says that he is a resident of Harlan county, Nebraska, and that he has resided there for nine years; that he was elected as a member of the house of representatives of the Nebraska legislature for 1899; that on the morning after the republican members of said legislature had voted for M. L. Hayward for United States senator, this affiant was importuned to vote for D. E. Thompson for United States senator, and was informed that said Thompson would support certain principles advocated by the fusion parties. In support of this representation he was shown a paper signed by D. E. Thompson in which the said Thompson agreed, if elected United States senator by the aid of fusion votes, that he would keep out of republican caucuses, oppose the policy of the republican party on imperialism, and agreed to support various other principles contended for by the fusion parties.

On the said morning before the joint session of the legislature at which M. L. Hayward was elected United States senator nearly all the fusion members of the legislature had congregated in the board of transportation rooms in the capitol building to consider the advisability of voting for said D. E. Thompson for United States senator, and the matter was discussed by various people and members, and this paper was circulated among some of the members of the fusion parties, including myself, for the purpose of convincing them that said Thompson was willing to support certain of the fusion principles in order to obtain the fusion votes for United States senator.

Affiant says it was urged by some that it might be better to help elect a man who would accept some important fusion principles than to permit the republicans to succeed in electing the republican nominee, who was pledged to oppose all the principles advocated by the fusion parties. But the proposition to throw the solid fusion vote to D. E. Thompson for United States senator was not accepted. (Signed)

F. CUNNINGHAM.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 4th day of May, 1900.

RANDEL R. PATE,  
Notary Public.

We have given space above to the accusation of Mr. F. M. Hall, one of the leading attorneys of Lincoln, sustained by uncontroverted testimony that Mr. D. E. Thompson was guilty during the last senatorial election of the shameful betrayal and abandonment of republican principles.

Mr. Hall accused him of attempting to sell out his party for the senatorship.

A few months ago Mr. Hall placed in the hands of Mayor Winnett \$1,000 to be bestowed upon some charity in the event of his failure to make good his accusation before any three disinterested citizens as provided by the statutes of Nebraska providing for an arbitrament of differences. Mr. Thompson then declined the challenge so Mr. Hall renewed his charge of party disloyalty against Mr. Thompson and laid the evidence before the Abraham Lincoln club and the public.

Since these affidavits were given to the public Mr. Thompson has made no denial. The men who signed them are men of high standing and unquestioned veracity. They are farmers and business men, and have the confidence of the community in which they reside. They have told the simple truth and the people believe them.

Since Mr. Thompson has declined to face Mr. Hall before any fair tribunal or court or at the bar of public opinion the charge of treason may be taken as both proven and confessed. In view of the evidence presented no mere denial of Mr. Thompson, or evasion of the issue will suffice. Mr. Thompson's republicanism has been impeached and he can never regain the confidence and support of republicans until he clears his skirts of this charge of party disloyalty.

In view of the fact that the republican legislative ticket of Lancaster county is pledged to support Mr. Thompson for United States senator,

and has been directed by the republican county convention to yield him unflinching allegiance, we ask republicans to stop and consider the nature of the accusation. Occasionally a man may bolt a part of the ticket because he believes some of the nominees are unfit; this may not involve an abandonment of party principles; when, however, a man deserts his party and basely surrenders every principle his party holds dear, and espouses the principles of the opposition party to secure a high office, he is guilty of political perfidy and treason. If we censure a man who bolts his ticket, what condemnation shall we visit upon the man who bolts his party?

The guilt of Mr. Thompson is the greater because while he openly attempted to keep faith with his republican supporters yet secretly he conspired with the populists to overthrow his own party and become a populist senator. He got the support of republicans on the understanding that he was a republican and sought the support of the populists because he had agreed to become one of them. Mr. Thompson can offer no excuse for his conduct in the last senatorial campaign. His principle competitor, Monroe L. Hayward, was a man of great ability and the highest character. He commanded the esteem and confidence of the people of the state in a remarkable degree. For more than twenty-five years he was recognized as one of the foremost republican leaders in Nebraska. He was a familiar and stalwart figure in all our state conventions. He was noted for his uncompromising republicanism. He held to his political convictions as rigidly as he did to his religious faith. As a brave soldier, a brilliant orator, able Judge and model citizen he possessed the qualifications in an eminent degree for the high office of United States senator. His canvas for the governorship endeared him to the people and won for him wide popularity.

The unanimity of the demand that Hayward should be senator was staved off for three months by Mr. Thompson who had never been seen in any republican convention and had never been heard of as a candidate for senator until after the fall election. Finally after a memorable and severe struggle which almost disrupted the republican party a republican caucus was called and Thompson, Hayward and the other candidates agreed to abide by the result and give the whole republican vote to the nominee of the caucus. The result of this caucus was the nomination of Monroe L. Hayward by the republicans to the office of United States senator.

The action of the caucus was hailed with delight throughout the state; but Mr. Thompson, desperate from defeat in the darkness of the night went over to the camp of the enemy and violated his agreement and pledge to abide by the action of the caucus. He went so far as to sign a bill of sale of republican principles.

Mr. Thompson is now a candidate for the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Hayward. We submit the foregoing testimony to the candid judgment of all republicans of this county and state, and ask them to pause and consider whether they can afford to bind the party to support a man who is willing to sell his political birthright. Only a few months have passed since Mr. Thompson sought to defeat Senator Hayward and become a populist senator of Nebraska. The republicans of Nebraska must face the question whether they will condone Mr. Thompson's political perfidy.

If the republican ticket in Lancaster county expects the full support of loyal republicans, they ought to declare their intention to cut loose from Mr. Thompson.

Inasmuch as the evidence of Mr. Thompson's abandonment of the republican party was not disclosed at the time the republican convention met, the nominees on the republican ticket in this county and all republicans would be justified in refusing to support Mr. Thompson's candidacy.

It will not do to act upon the theory that the republican members when elected will refuse to vote for him and defeat his appointment. If Douglas county which is pledged to Mr. Rosewater elects a republican legislative ticket and Mr. Thompson carries this county, the combination of those two counties will aggregate about twenty votes, while only thirty-four votes will be required to control the republican legislative caucus. In view of the ardent support which the members from this county gave Mr. Thompson for three months during the last senator-

ial fight, there is little hope to defeat Mr. Thompson if he has the united support of Lancaster county in the coming senatorial election providing we have a republican legislature. Voters should not forget that Mr. A. W. Lane, who is a candidate in this county on the republican legislative ticket was a member of the last legislature

and voted first, last and all the time for Mr. Thompson. If he was not a party to the agreement of Thompson with the populists, he knew of the deal and made no objections to it, and now adopts and ratifies the deal by again agreeing to vote for a man who undertook to stab the republican party in the dark.

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