

Confidential



U.S. SENATE INTERVIEWS



STATE OF ALABAMA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2017
TO: Robert Bentley, Governor
FROM: David B. Byrne, Jr., Chief Legal Advisor
SUBJECT: Talking Points/Timeline of Events

July 13, 2016

Governor Robert Bentley testified before the Montgomery County Special Grand Jury.

Prior to Governor Bentley's appearance before the Grand Jury, Governor Bentley's private lawyer, Joe Espy, and the Governor's Legal Advisor, were advised that the Governor was not a subject or target of the grand jury, but that his office needed to consider the Governor's status as a witness.

November 3, 2016

Attorney General Luther Strange wrote Representative Mike Jones, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee asking Representative Jones to cease work of the House Judiciary Committee. Attorney General Strange respectfully requested that the Committee cease active interviews and investigation until the Attorney General was able to report to you the necessary related work of his office had been completed.

November 8, 2016 – Presidential Election

Following the November 2016 General Election of Donald J. Trump to be the President Elect, the President announced that he intended to appoint United States Senator Jeff Sessions to be his Attorney General.

December 22, 2016

Attorney General Strange told reporter Mike Cason that ...”he has never said the governor is under investigation.”

Attorney General Strange was asked a follow up question by Mike Cason related to the press release issued by Representative Mike Jones, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Attorney General Strange said “the press release from Jones was incorrect.”

January 2017

Attorney General Strange was the first Alabama politician to file paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission to run for the Senate office in 2018.

January 20, 2017

Donald J. Trump took office as the President of the United States.

Immediately following his inauguration, President Trump nominated United States Senator Jeff Sessions to be his Attorney General.

Governor Bentley issued a broad announcement seeking qualified candidates to replace Senator Sessions should he resign from the United States Senate.

Approximately 100 candidates asked to be considered to replace Senator Sessions. From that number the Governor selected 20 candidates for interview. Each interview was conducted one-on-one with a prospective candidate seeking the appointment. Those discussions focused on academic background, work experience, their role in public service, and most important why they were the best qualified to seek appointment.

Following the interview of the 20 candidates, the Governor narrowed the list to 6 candidates for the short list.

February 8, 2017

Governor Robert Bentley announced his intention to nominate _____ as the next United States Senator from Alabama.

Deliberation & consideration
of the 20 candidates -

Jan 6, 2017

* Luther Strange - Interviewed well, close to EPA (Aq) OK
State effect - trickle down - Have to support AA,
Federal Issues - Equal knowledge to any Congressman
Delegation Relations - yes - Service
Recommendations Shelby (Indirectly), Mobile group,
Jael Anderson, Angus Cooper, (McConnell + Sessions are OK)
* Only declared candidate - no one else made total comm
to Run -

Benefit - "I can do more for you (State ^{the} agenda) as senator -
than I can as AB" on roads, supporting medicine
etc.

* Connie Rawe - Interviewed very well, Relaxed, Reasonable
People person, Relatable, Smart stands for what she believes in
ie Womens Prisons
trickle down - low - also low house seat
Federal issues - not as well versed because lack of involvement
Wood support trump agenda
Delegation Relations - outspoken.
Recommendations - Pete Short - me
Benefit - unwavering loyalty to me and State.

* Jim Byard -
Best interview of all candidates, Organized to Run
but not committed & not appointed - not sure -
Trickle down - lose great ADEIA director → new cabinet
Federal issues - 2nd in knowledge of depth & breadth
of issues. Delegation Relations - good -
Rec - me
Benefit - Knowledge, organization, great local knowledge

* Robert Odenhaet

Interviewed well, Gets along with ultra Right wing
but not a part (Freedom Caucus) Congress 20 years -
tumbledown - might hurt - has chance to be chair
of Home ways + means -

Federal issues - total depth of knowledge -

Delegation Relations - Great

Recommendations - HCGOP - Me

Benefit - Loyalty, Close friend, Close to Pence
served with the VP - knows him extremely
well -

* Perry Hooper

Interviewed well. Answered "correctly"
dealing with Federal issues and state
tumbledown - none

Federal issues - Understands - depth + breadth

Understands and is close to President Trump -

Delegation Relations - Thought as "showman"

Recommendations SK Segustler, People -
numerous phone calls to me from all over
state - various people -

By far most recommendations -

Benefit - Loyalty, "Pro-Bentley"

wants us to be able to succeed -

* "Highest and Best use" - all had painters -
Good candidates - all

Out

Jim Jams
Mug Reed
Bill Poole
Glen Murdoch
Bill Hightower
Phil Williams
Julie Magle
Martha Ruby
Gary Palmer
Arthur Orr
Cam Ward
Drip Pittman
Ray Moore

Remaining

Luther Strange
Connie Rowe
Jim Byard
Robert Odenholt
Perry Hooper -

(Del Marsh
Mo Brooks)

Survey at top of list

* Luther 9

Jim 17

Robert 13

Connie 27

Perry 24

Interview

- ① Byard
- ② Luther
- ③ Oederhelt
- ④ Connie
- ⑤ Perry

Trumble down feet

- ① Luther
- ⑤ Byard
- ③ Robert
- ④ Connie
- ⑤ Perry

Federal Issue Knowledge

- ① Robert
- ② Luther
- ③ Byard
- ④ Perry
- ⑤ Connie

Delegation Relations

- ① Robert
- ② Luther
- ③ Jim
- ④ Connie
- ⑤ Perry

Recommendations

- ① Luther
- ② Robert
- ③ Perry
- ④ Byard
- ⑤ Connie

Percept to state in son

- ① Luther
- ⑤ Perry
- ③ Robert
- ④ Jim
- ⑤ Connie

	Byard	Luther	Oederhelt	Perry	Connie
1	1	3	2	0	0
2	1	3	1	1	0
3	1	0	2	1	0
4	2	0	0	1	3
5	0	0	0	3	3

Senate —

- ① In the Stray
- ② Robert Adair
- ③ Jim Beard
- ④ Perry Hooper
- ⑤ Connie Rowe

Del marsh or McBrooks as chair
in top six also —

Both good — most likely Del marsh —
will decide close to time —

Robert Adair

Later close to appt — weekend before choosing —
added Del marsh — so 6 in all for final —

not from
Taylor indirectly
list

RM

Almost didn't add Del because I was informed
that he told Taylor Williams if I didn't appoint him
he would F---k with me for the next 2 years —
also the first time we talked before the interview
he seemed angry when he said "Governor you tell
me who would make a better senator. No one better than
me" But I added him because I felt he
was very guarded —

I put all 6 of top six names they were
in the running — — and to make some preparations