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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

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April 12, 1945

His Excellency
Franklin D. Roosevelt
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The under-signed Senators from North Carolina have recommended to the Attorney General, and he has agreed to present to you, the names of the Honorable Stanley Winborne and the Honorable Donnell Gilliam for Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of North Carolina, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Judge Isaac Meekins.

We have selected these two from a considerable list of names put forward and we have done so because we think they are the best qualified men available.

We present first the name of the Honorable Stanley Winborne, who has served most acceptably as State Utilities Commissioner for twelve years, having been appointed to that position by the Governor and having been elected to the position by the people and also having been elected to the position by the Legislature. These expressions of confidence in him manifest sufficiently the general confidence in him as a man and as a public servant. He is a man of the highest character, of unusually elevated personality, and he has shown rare capacity for judicial temperament in the discharge of his duties as Utilities Commissioner. He has served in the Legislature of our State and at the age of fifty-nine he has a record at the Bar and in public life of enviable distinction.

The second recommendation is that of Honorable Donnell Gilliam, who is fifty-five years of age and who also is distinguished for the elevation of his character, the charm of his personality, and a singularly efficient and faithful performance of his duty as Solicitor of the Judicial District in which he lives, having served in that position for nearly twenty-five years. It is

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rather remarkable that he has been County Chairman of his County for twenty-nine years. Nevertheless he is not regarded as a bitter partisan, but as a well poised fair-minded and faithful Democrat. He usually receives his nomination and election without opposition. I do not know of anyone else who has served as County Chairman in North Carolina so long or so well. Two eminent Judges, that is, Justice Barnhill of our Supreme Court and Judge Bone of the Superior Court of Mr. Gilliam's District, testify to his judicial capacity, and throughout his District we have had letters expressing the greatest confidence in him and intense interest in his appointment. It happens that Mr. Gilliam was appointed Solicitor by former Senator Morrison, and was offered the position of Judge of the Superior Court by Senator Hoey.

Either of these gentlemen will make a most excellent Judge, and after discussing the matter we authorized the Attorney General to say to you that either would be entirely satisfactory and that we prefer one or the other to any of the others who have been considered. If you prefer that we should take the responsibility and suggest one name we will not hesitate to do so.

Most respectfully yours,

Joseph W. Bailey
Cyrus R. Hoey