

U. S. SENATOR REED SMOOT PLEDGES SUPPORT TO BILL ENFRANCHISING WOMEN OF THE NATION



Members of the executive committee of the national suffragists' convention and prominent local women supporting national political freedom for woman, snapped with Senator Reed Smoot, to whom they had just appealed for support of their movement in the next Congress. So enthusiastic were the executive committee over Senator Smoot's answer to their appeal that they insisted his picture be taken with them. From left to right: Mrs. Marie Mahon of New York, Mrs. H. S. Lapish, Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells, Senator Reed Smoot, Mrs. W. J. Wolstenholme, Mrs. F. A. Hayward, Mrs. Margaret Zane Cherdron, Mrs. L. A. Clark, Mrs. J. H. Saxson, Mrs. A. D. Paine, Mrs. L. T. Freeze, Mrs. Ruth M. Fox, Mrs. Charles Livingston, Mrs. L. R. Tanner and Mrs. M. B. Lawrence.

As long as mothers are united in the passage of laws for the benefit of their own sons and daughters it will have the greatest effect on public minds. I will give my honest support to the passage of a measure giving national political freedom to women.

This declaration by Senator Reed Smoot at the Hotel Utah yesterday afternoon in response to an appeal from members of the National Suffrage organization visiting here from the east, and to prominent local women interested in the efforts of the women of the nation to obtain national enfranchisement, brought forth a lusty cheer from the two-score or more fair petitioners present.

Under the direction of Mrs. Marie Mahon of New York, a probation officer and white slave detective of the state of New York and a national figure in the suffragist movement, and Miss Mabel Vernon, field representative of the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage, the executive committee of the organization gathered at the Newhouse hotel shortly before 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Headed by a band playing "When You Were a Girl" and escorted in automobiles decorated with bunting and purple, white and golden flags—the organization's colors—the suffragists marched to the Hotel Utah to interview Senator Smoot.

Senator Smoot greeted the women in his office on the mezzanine floor of the Hotel Utah with a smile of welcome. After he had shaken hands with each, Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells introduced Miss Vernon to Senator Smoot.

Miss Vernon made a short, but impressive plea to the Utah senator to continue supporting the bill in Congress designed to give the vote to the women of the nation. She said:

"In behalf of the women of the nation I wish to thank you, Senator Smoot, for the support you have given to our cause. I beg of you to continue to support the bill in the next Congress and to be your best in all committee meetings with which you are associated. Make men realize woman suffrage is a national question. We want an amendment to the constitution that will give the right to vote to women."

Senator Smoot then stated that he had saved the suffrage bill from being buried and "hung out of count" by old and experienced senators, and that he would continue giving his hearty support to the cause. He said:

"I had not been prominent in the woman suffrage cause because, coming from a state where political freedom had been granted women, I feared it might influence senators, just as before on the question, to vote against it. But when a committee of women called on me to support the proposed amendment to the constitution, I gave it my most hearty support. When an attempt was made to table the bill, I prevented it being done. Whenever the bill comes on the Senate calendar, I shall see that no man takes advantage of the vote of the Senate to bury it."

"I am not a senator of Utah alone, but a senator of the United States and have as much interest in women of other states as of Utah. My interests are in the welfare of other states as well as of my own. I shall never act other than a senator of the United States."

"I am only too glad to listen to the appeals of all people, no matter in what state they live. I will willingly give twenty-four hours of my time any day to matters of interest to my country. I appreciate the offer you have made me and while I am in the Senate—and I am there all the time—I shall see that the woman's suffrage bill is never made ridiculous or tabled through the cleverness of opposing senators."

"My success be with you," concluded Senator Smoot.

Senator Smoot's words were followed by applause from the women present and the eastern women were escorted with the smiles displayed towards their cause by Senator Smoot.

At 5:30 o'clock last evening a reception was held in Great Hall. The plans were to hold the reception in honor of Mrs. Alice Paul, but her arrival in the city was delayed until after midnight by a washout on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad in Colorado.

A mass meeting will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon in the Hotel Utah. The general public is invited to attend and all women are especially urged to be present.

The executive committee of the suffrage convention was reconstituted at luncheon at the Newhouse hotel yesterday noon.

The Salt Lake Herald-Republican, August 20, 1915

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Miss Mabel Vernon, field representative of the Congressional Union for Woman's Suffrage, the executive committee of the Congressional union and local women adherents gathered at the Newhouse hotel shortly before 4:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Headed by a band playing "When You Wore A Tulip" and seated in automobiles decorated with bunting and purple, white and golden flags--the organizations colors--the suffragists paraded to the Hotel Utah to interview Senator Smoot.

Senator Smoot greeted the women in his office on the mezzanine floor of the Hotel Utah with a smile of welcome. After he had shaken hands with each, Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells introduced Miss Vernon to Senator Smoot.

Miss Vernon made a short, but impressive plea to the Utah senior senator to continue supporting the bill in the Congress designed to give the vote to the women of the nation. She said: "In behalf of the women of the nation I wish to thank you, Senator Smoot, for the support you have given to our cause. I beg of you to continue and support the bill in the next Congress and to do your best in all your committee meetings with which you are associated. Make men realize woman suffrage is a national question. We want an amendment to the constitution that will give the right to vote to women."

Senator Smoot then stated that he had saved the suffrage bill from being buried and "laughed out of court" by old and experienced senators and that he would continue giving his hearty support to the cause. He said: "I had not been prominent in the woman suffrage cause because, coming from a state where political freedom was granted women, I feared it might influence senators, just wavering on the question, to vote against it. But when a committee of women called on me to support the proposed amendment to the constitution, I gave it my most hearty support. When an attempt was made to table the bill, I prevented it from being done. Whenever the bill comes on the Senate calendar, I shall see that no men take advantage of the rules of the Senate to bury it.

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Senator Smoot's words were followed by applause from the women present and the eastern women were overjoyed with the spirit displayed towards their cause by Senator Smoot.

At 8:00 o'clock last evening a reception was held in Barratt hall. The plans were to hold the reception in honor of Miss Alice Paul, but her arrival in the city was delayed until after midnight by a washout on the Denver and Rio Grande railroad in Colorado.

A mass meeting will be held at 3:00 o'clock this afternoon in the Hotel Utah. The general public is invited to attend and all women are especially urged to be present.

The executive committee of the suffrage convention was entertained at the Newhouse hotel yesterday afternoon.