

Confidential

Washington, Sept. 3, 1850

My Dear Bush; This letter will reach you the last of October, I would see the Democratic Naps, and get elected clerk of the House. I shall write some of my friends about it. Meanwhile be busy and stall the subscribers you can and be ready to operate so soon as the press arrives which will not be, I am afraid till the last of December. Be very careful to make everybody your friend,--now as to party, I should form party organizations in the different counties, as to county offices, for it will take some time, you are aware to get the party up to the sticking point. So far as a Territorial Convention is concerned to nominate a Delegate, I think I would not urge that, as it might defeat us, from the fact, that the entire whig party would unite against the nominee, and then there would be Democrats enough, opposed to party lines, who would vote for the anti party man to turn the scale. This was illustrated in the recent election in Clackamas. Hereupon in the importance of getting the party drilled in such divisions thoroughly, before you require it to mark time in one body. Therefore, favor party organization in the several counties, at first, and of, as I suppose, a majority of the party would unite on me, any how, nothing would be gained by nominating me formally, over the precept of ----- me by general consent. If this course is adopted, and the whigs then undertake to run a man, we are on the defensive, and I can go before the whole people, and while I could get nearly the entire Democratic party, I could carry off one half of the whigs. But should the whigs adopt this course, this would drive the whole Democratic party into solid column, and that is what we desire, because in that case there is no danger, I can do more for the party, while I am here in a ----- neutral position. Then I could were I here shortly as an open party man. If, during the next two years, we can get the party under drill in their several counties, it will be a very auspicious time to make the grand rally at the commencement of next administration. And I would not be surprised, if we moved to become a state at that time. Now, then, you must not commit me to anything--let me alone to quietly attend to the wants of the Territory, because if they make the assault under those circumstances, it is all the better. I hope you will talk round among my friends, and the Democrats generally, & support these ideas. Don't let any one know that I have said anything. And you will understand, this I am clearly of the opinion, that your best course is, to act in all cases on your own judgment. This is the only safety for a Dem. Editor, taking of course under advisement all the suggestions of his friends. You are on the spot--I am not, hence you can tell better than I, what is, and what should be, but I am of the opinion, that it is the best perhaps for the party, to organize in their several counties, but not to have any Territorial Convention next year. Get the assembly, if possible, to defer the next election to a later period. In all cases consider my letters strictly confidential, unless I order otherwise. This winter, while the assembly is in session, watch the manoeuvres, conversations, and inclinations of men and cliques, and parties, and send me a weekly account of them. I will now say it to you only, that about next Feby. or March you may look for my address to the people announcing myself as a candidate for reelection. You can make a confidential friend of Wesley Shannon under all circumstances.

Yours truly &c,

Saml. R. Thurston.