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# NEWS OF THE SOUTHEAST *Empire*

## Letdown for LBJ Expected Tuesday

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Montgomery, Ala., May 2—In Tuesday's Democratic primary the chances are that President Johnson will get some bad news.

It appears likely that Alabama will follow the leadership of Gov. George C. Wallace and nominate 10 unpledged presidential electors.

This elector slate, headed by Lt. Gov. Jim Allen of Gadsden, might later commit themselves to President Johnson. But if elected in November, members would be free to cast their votes for whom they pleased.

At a rally in Mobile, Wallace presented it thus:

"As I stand up for America in Indiana May 5, I hope you'll stand up for me in Alabama. If you don't, the people are going to ask, 'Why should Indiana and Maryland stand with you when the people of Alabama didn't?'"

**THE RALLY** hosts handed over to Wallace \$11,000 in contributions to carry forward.

The Johnson elector slate is being sponsored by U.S. Senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman.

The state's editors generally backed the Johnson slate, apparently through a desire for a standard pitting of the Democratic and Republican candidates. But the senators were finding it sticky to explain

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their mortal opposition to the civil rights bill and support of its chief sponsor, Johnson.

There was little visible interest in the other election contests, involving 10 congressional seats and the presidency of the Alabama Public Service Commission.

It appeared that Commission President C. C. (Jack) Owen was certain to be re-elected over former Gov. James E. (Big Jim) Folsom and former Birmingham Police Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor.

**FOLSOM IS** expected to get the Negro vote and Connor the Kluxer vote, leaving the big majority in between to Owen.

Folsom and Connor are also running for Democratic national committeeman, the post now being occupied by Connor.

The 10 Democratic congressional candidates nominated in district contests will have to run statewide in November against a Republican slate due to the failure of the legislature to redistrict.

*Statewide*