

Firster Smith Asks for a Buffalo ...Gets Verbal Hiding From Ickes

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. Gerald L. K. Smith the Detroit rabble-rouser who is running for President to keep himself busy, recently wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes urging him to name one of the buffaloes in Yellowstone Park "America First." Smith said such a step would be entirely proper since the America First Party, Smith's current business, has designated the buffalo as its mascot.

Today Smith got this reply from Mr. Ickes:

"My Dear Mr. Smith:

"Your delightful letter of Aug. 10 has reached me.

Imitation is the utmost in flattery. It happens that the American buffalo is conspicuous on the seal and in the flag of this Department.

"You are right in assuming that as Secretary of the Interior I have authority over the disposition of the buffaloes in the National Parks. But I must deny myself the pleasure of complying with your request that I cause to be ear-marked and named one of the buffaloes in the Yellowstone National Park 'America First.' We don't play politics in or with our parks and certainly we would not permit



PM's Bureau

them to be the excuse for a demonstration staged for a rabble-rouser trying to add stature to himself by nominating himself as a candidate for President in the name of a fictitious party.

"In a way I regret that I cannot see my way clear to arranging for you and one of our loudest voiced bull-buffaloes to be introduced to each other. I can see that it might be a matter of great public interest as to whether you 'accepted the buffalo officially in behalf of the party' or whether it accepted you and, if so, how and where.

"And so I must invite you to look in some other direction for a publicity stunt, although I recognize your great need for something of the sort.

"As you suggest, we 'have always been bitter political enemies.' With the accommodations at St. Elizabeth's* so greatly in demand I trust that this may always be true so far as I am concerned. I have never had any fancy for political charlatans or mountebanks. You rejoice that we 'at least agree on buffaloes.' We don't agree, even on that subject, because I don't concur in the idea that a perfectly decent and well-behaved and well-brought up buffalo should, without any option on his part, bear such a stigma as you suggest.

"Sincerely yours,

"HAROLD L. ICKES."

* St. Elizabeth's is where people in Washington with mental troubles are sent.