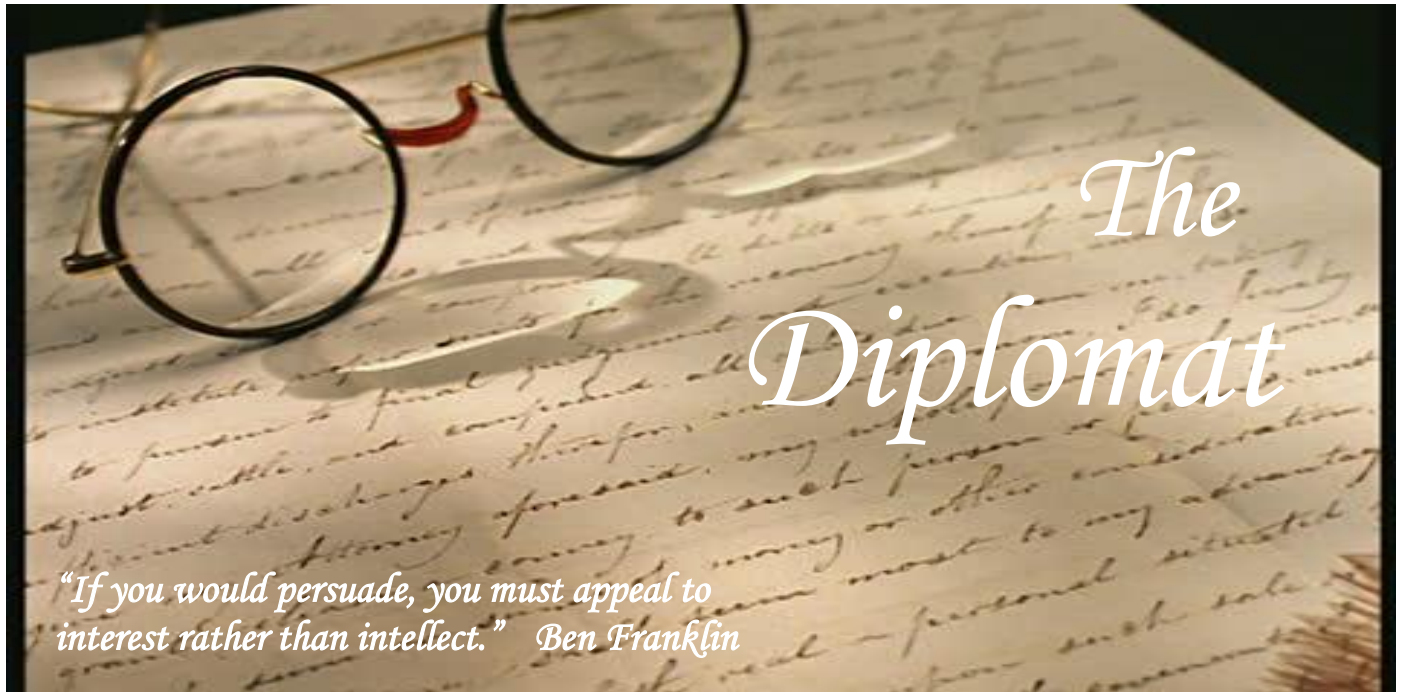


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Almost Here

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**Our Monthly Newsletter to
keep you informed of the
happenings in the State of
Alabama**

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2020 SESSION**Almost Here**

The 2020 Legislative Session begins February 4th and while prison reform is still expected to be a hot topic during much of the session, it might not be as much at the forefront as originally expected. Appearing to be more in doubt is a Special Session during the 2020 Regular Session to tackle prison reform. Reports suggest the Legislature isn't yet on the same page and might not be ready to tackle issues to prevent a Federal intervention of our state prison system. Other matters expected to come before the Legislature in the upcoming session include education reform, rural health care, gaming, medical marijuana and the possibility of another teacher pay raise.

ALABAMA SENATE**Leadership Shakeup**

It has long been speculated that Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh (R-Anniston) will relinquish the responsibilities of running the Senate, a job he has held for almost ten years, sometime after the conclusion of this session.

Majority Leader Greg Reed (R-Jasper) is expected to succeed Marsh. The question is who replaces Reed as majority leader?

Clyde Chambliss (R-Prattville) has been the odds-on favorite to succeed Reed, some even saying he had been "anointed" for the role, but a new name is emerging as a potential, if not likely, successor for Majority Leader: Sen. Clay Scofield (R-Guntersville). It is being reported that Scofield has as many as 20 of the 27 GOP senators committed to supporting him, which would put him in the cat bird's seat in a leadership transition.

U.S. SENATE RACE**Polling**

The Alabama Farmers Federation, who have endorsed Tommy Tuberville in the U.S. Senate Primary, released a poll earlier this month. The poll showed former U.S. Senator and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions leading the field with 35% of respondents saying they would vote for him if the election was held today. Tuberville was right behind with 31%, according to the survey. Congressman Bradley Byrne was third with 12%.

UNEMPLOYMENT**Down**

Alabama led the nation in lowering unemployment over the last year according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Based on workforce data recently released by BLS, Alabama's unemployment rate drop from 3.8% in November 2018 to 2.7% in November 2019 is the largest of any state in the nation.



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