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219 SOUTH AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

August 15, 1934.

Hon. Guy B. Park,
Governor of Missouri,
Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dear Governor:

I just had a talk with our mutual friend George Olendorf and find from George that there is some disappointment in Jefferson City that Greene County did not do any better for Judge Truman. Also from what he said and from what I saw in the Kansas City Journal Post Sunday I see they are attributing the reason to the committee fight down here which they claim took all the time and that the leaders here deserted Truman; all of which is false.

I felt a little bit hurt to have seen this in the paper and also to have heard it, for the reason that I had personal charge of Truman headquarters and devoted a good deal of my personal time and attention to his campaign.

It is true that Judge Truman did not get a very big vote from Greene County, and that can be attributed to several causes. In the first instance, frankly, there is a terrible sentiment, and has been for some time, in this county against Mr. Pendergast, and that sentiment is hard to overcome. For instance, Charley Howell, who spent several thousand dollars in this county two years ago, only got fourteen hundred votes, and that

was due to the anti-Pendergast sentiment; while this time Judge Truman got about fifteen hundred votes more than Charley Howell did two years ago and there were about three thousand less votes cast this time than in the primary two years ago.

Another thing that attributed to his poor showing was that Joe Shannon was here, had a most wonderful crowd, and about half the crowd left because they were disgusted with the position he took. I think that lost Judge Truman several hundred votes.

Senator Clark and Dan Nee were here a little before the primary and had a conference with Greenwade, made a trade with him, and Greenwade, of course, laid down and went for Milligan.

In the last two days, Saturday and Monday, before the primary there was a great deal of Cochran money spent here and no doubt that influences several hundred votes.

All of these are the contributing causes, and no others, which caused the poor showing Truman made. Then, too, Charles Hay, who is now and has been very popular here for several years made a very strong speech

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here a short time before the primary for Cochran and that no doubt had a good deal of weight.

You no doubt have read the article in the Kansas City Sunday Journal Post. I have authentic information that Ira McBride and McCammon are the authors of that article. The statements made in the article were unwarranted and untrue in almost every particular.

A few days before the primary Ira McBride did come to the Truman headquarters and offered his services. Said he would have McCammon, Mrs. Ruby Likens and another one or two of his appointees here and that he would distribute them over the different wards of Springfield, and to get in touch with him a little later and he would be glad to render any assistance he could and that he would get other workers. Mrs. Doss, whom I had in immediate charge and who stayed in the headquarters, tried for two days to get in touch with Mr. McBride and to get the workers. She called his home and left the Truman headquarters' number there; found out from his wife that he had an office in town, called the office and left the Truman headquarters' number there; and Mr. McBride failed to call. However, we had workers in not all of the wards but in some of them here in Springfield.

The situation that Mr. McBride speaks of in the paper, about Mr. Wear's situation, wherein he said Mr. Wear was in his ward the entire day working to get his man in and that then his committeeman and committee- woman were only elected by a small majority, is absolutely untrue. In the first instance, Mr. Wear ran for committeeman and Mrs. Doss for committeewoman in that ward and they were unopposed, they had no opposition whatsoever.

Mr. Wear and I and different workers were around the city all day trying to get in the Truman vote. Mr. Wear did go out to the first ward where Judge Johnson was running for committeeman, about 5 o'clock, having learned that Mr. McBride was there fighting Arch Johnson, and devoting all his time to that. Mr. Wear went out about 5 o'clock and put a stop to that. We discovered that McBride had been there trying to nominate a man by the name of Cullen Bryant for representative, a man badly defeated, and trying to defeat Judge Johnson for committeeman; and that was the only effort Mr. McBride put forth. This can be verified by at least eight or ten reputable Democrats of Greene County.

I am sorry to have written you such a long letter but in view of what George said and in view of the article in the Kansas City paper Sunday I thought I at least ought to explain the situation to you and give

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you the exact facts, as I feel personally responsible and feel bad that the facts have been so grossly misrepresented.

Mr. McBride did do some work here for King, but in the work he did for King I believe he hurt Truman, for this reason: Lee had a great many supporters here and at the time McBride arrived in Springfield an article came out in the paper, which was no doubt written at his instance, and in this article it was said that McBride was here to put on a big campaign for King and Truman and that he carried at least four hundred King and Truman votes in his pocket. A great number of Lee's supporters resented this and refused to vote for Truman by virtue of that article.

George tells me you will be down here in the next week or two and, of course, I want to see you, and would be glad to go into this in more detail.

I am sorry to have written such a long letter, but, as above stated, I felt it due to you and to myself to give you the explanation of the vote here in Greene County.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Hiram D. Chinn

HDC :A