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INTERNAL REVENUE  
JAN 19 1940  
INTELLIGENCE UNIT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
Kansas City, Missouri.  
January 17, 1940.

INTELLIGENCE UNIT  
KANSAS CITY  
(Name of Division)  
SI-CO'OB:M

Mr. W. H. Woolf,  
Acting Chief, Intelligence Unit,  
Bureau of Internal Revenue,  
Washington, D. C.

Reference is made to a long distance call by Governor Stark of Missouri to Mr. Ireby on Thursday, January 11th, in which the Governor stated that he was in possession of important information which should be investigated at once.

After you called me on Friday the 12th, and it was ascertained that it would be impossible to contact the Governor for several days, I reviewed with Special Agent W. Harold Lane the entire conversation which he had had with the Governor on the evening of Wednesday, January 10th. We determined that the only matter mentioned in that conversation which might have been referred to by the Governor in his call to Mr. Ireby was an unconfirmed rumor that Mr. T. J. Pendergast was directing the activities of the Kansas City political machine from his cell in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth; and I suggested that Mr. Lane call upon the Warden at the penitentiary and ascertain the names of all visitors who have called to see Mr. Pendergast, and also whether their conversation might be supervised. Mr. Lane did this, and was advised by the Warden that all visitors must make known the purpose of their visits and the subject of their talks before being permitted to visit the prisoner, and that a guard who is given a memorandum of the subject of the talk to be had is present during the entire conversation.

The only visitors Mr. Pendergast has had are the attorneys who have been representing him in his income tax matters, and who, incidentally, have cooperated to the fullest extent with this office; and the members of his immediate family.

The fact that such an action as has been rumored on the part of Mr. Pendergast would be a violation of the provisions of his five-year

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probation, would act as a compelling force to prevent him from participating in any way in the political picture in Kansas City.

Yesterday Mr. Lane was able to contact the Governor of Missouri, and it developed that it was this rumor about Mr. Pendergast that the Governor had in mind when he talked to Mr. Irey. When the situation was explained to him by Mr. Lane, he appeared fully satisfied and suggested that no further action be taken unless more conclusive information was received.

I am transmitting herewith Mr. Lane's report to me on the matter of his conversations with the Governor and with the Warden of the penitentiary.

Chas. O'B. Berry,  
Special Agent in Charge.

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