

James M. Pendergast  
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Mr. Pendergast is a lawyer, and has succeeded his uncle, Tom Pendergast, as political leader. He is on the Democratic State Committee.

In 1948 he supported Forrest Smith in the primary for governor. It was generally understood that if Smith was elected Binaggio would have his own way with reference to law enforcement in Kansas City. Binaggio succeeded in having one of his candidates named to the Police Commission - Farrell. Binaggio also supported Milligan's candidacy although Milligan was a personal appointee of Smith. Binaggio made efforts to get the cooperation of Cohen or Chambers in order to have the three votes to control the Police Department. Binaggio was known to make many efforts to put former Captain Brawn in the position of police chief. As a result of Binaggio's failure, there was considerable disappointment among the criminal element.

Prior to 1948, Pendergast supported Donnelly for governor while Binaggio supported Sermon. Binaggio was not in the picture before 1944, and he was not very important in 1944.

In 1944, Binaggio came to Pendergast's office and asked him if he would talk to Donnelly about getting Donnelly's point of view on opening the State for gambling. Pendergast refused to ask Donnelly.

Pendergast has no idea who stole the ballots in the Spring of 1947, that were involved in the primary contest in 1946 between Slaughter and Axtel. In this contest both he and Binaggio supported Axtel who defeated Slaughter in the primary.

Pendergast believes that the destruction of the ballots is evidence that somebody had a sense of guilt. However, Pendergast believes that all the fraudulent ballots would not in any way have changed the election, so he did not see where Artel would have any motive to destroy them.