

July 29, 1938.

Mr. Wallace I. Bowers, Capitol Bldg., Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dear Wallace:

We have been moving our office and everything has been more or less upside down, and your letter of July 16th got under some other papers, which explains my not answering it, sooner.

However, I am glad to say that I have been doing everything I can for Judge Douglas. I feel like you, that it is an important matter. From the information I have, of the two candidates for this nomination, Judge Douglas is much better equipped than Billings.

Furthermore, I cannot follow the reasoning that when any organization lends its support to a candidate for office, and the candidate is elected, that, therefore, the organization owns him, body and soul, and that he must waive any conscientious scruples he has in reference to discharging his duty and do what he is told to do by parties not even under oath as officials.

If because Governor Stark received the support of an organization he was then owned by said organization, by the same token, because the same organization supports Judge Billings, and he is nominated and elected, then the organization will own Judge Billings and he will have to do what he is told to do - and if he will be told if the occasion arises - or, else, he will be called an ingrate, etc.

To my way of thinking, the effort to defeat Judge Douglas for nomination is merely certain individuals asking all the other Democrats in the state to join them in an effort to vent their spite on Governor Stark by defeating Judge Douglas for re-nomination.

I have lived here in Kansas City for a good many years and have seen the same parties that are sore at Governor Stark go out and beat Democratic candidates after they had been duly and regularly nominated by the Democratic Party, and elect Republicans to office. It seems all right for the bosses to do that and less majesty for ordinary Democrats to do it. I have lived here long enough to see the Rabbit Faction bolt the Democratic Convention, after their candidate was beaten, when, the late W. T. Kemper was nominated for Mayor, and hold a rump convention and nominate George M. Shelly, for no other purpose than to beat Kemper, the majority nominee, and they did it, and elected Jay Neff, the Republican candidate for Mayor.

A number of years ago, I saw the Goat Faction, because they could not control Henry Jost, go out and beat him after he had been regularly nominated, and they elected George H. Edwards, Republican.

But the most convincing argument to me is, if Stark was bought (he has demonstrated, however, he was not, which is right), then Billings will be bought and that is a situation that no right thinking person, in my opinion, should want to exist.

Sam has accepted a position under Thurman Arnold as an Assistant in the trial division of the Anti-Trust Department of the Attorney General's office, now presided over by Mr. Thurman Arnold. He left here last week and started his duties in Washington last Monday.

I do not know whether this is worthy of mention in any of the Beta Magazines, or not. However, I think it might be worth mentioning in the local Beta letter, "Scratches" or whatever they call it; also the Westminster literature that goes out to the Alumni, etc. However, I do not believe that any Betas get an even break with Mr. Dogface Lamkin, as he has never grown up and is still running the Phi Delta Theta paper.

Yours very truly, [Ellison A. Neel] EAN:AMD