

In Manhattan. Thomas Joseph ("Big Tom") Pendergast, Democratic boss of Kansas City, surveyed with scorn the sorry plight of Tammany Hall, gave the following advice:

"Tammany Hall needs another Murphy, and won't be strong again until it gets someone like that. A political machine has got to have a boss. It can't be run by a board of directors, even if you give them Indian names. You've got to have a boss to tell those guys with fancy names what to do. . . . Now look at me. I'm not bragging when I say I run the show in Kansas City. I am boss. . . . I have controlled Kansas City for 25 years, and I'll continue in control as long as I treat the people right."

Boss Pendergast's formula for treating the people right: "I am honest with the people. I gave them a good government. I take care of the poor. I give out all the jobs I can find. I never ask a man his politics, but I do him a good turn if I can. When I have treated the people right, they will vote my way on election day—that is, 75% of them will. The other 25% aren't worth bothering about."

Keystone

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