ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST HIS FRIENDS

That's Why Mr. Pendergast Interceded in Tax Case for the Late John Lazia.

His Letter to Mr. Farley, Written Six Months Ago, Published in St. Louis, and Nobody Understands Why or How.

Considerable interest was aroused late last week by publication in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of a letter written by T. J. Pendergast, leader of the Jackson County Democracy, to James A. Farley, chairman of the Democratic national committee, asking Mr. Farley to see what could be done to bring about settlement of an income tax suit involving the late John Lazia, who was assassinated in front of the Armour Boulevard hotel in which he lived.

Back in May Mr. Pendergast addressed a personal letter to Mr. Farley, whom he saluted as "My Dear Jim." The two leaders have long been close personal friends. The letter outlined that Lazia was being needlessly harassed and. that it would be pleasing to Mr. Pendergast if the case could be promptly settled.

More than six months later this strictly private letter was given out for publication. Whether Mr. Farley was responsible is not clear. A state leader remarked:

"Maybe Jim is not to blame. You can't always tell how things like that happen."

Mr. Pendergast did not show resentment, even if he felt it. When asked about the letter, he said, "Of course I wrote it," and added:

"In the latter years of his life John Lazia was one of my political friends, a fact which I have never sought to hide. Most of us believe that he was being unfairly treated in the tax income case. It appeared that he had offered to pay the sum demanded by the tax office, but that this was not satisfactory to the government representatives, who wanted to bring him to trial on the charge of having made a false return.

"Many such tax disputes arise, and in most cases the government does not hesitate to agree to a settlement. Pendergast's six months after its date. Mr. Pendergast's statement indicated that he believed someone might have apporpriated the letter from Mr. Farley's files.