

MILLIONS TO PENDERGAST

HARDING, MURPHY & TUCKER

JOHN THOMAS HARDING

DAVID ANDREW MURPHY

R. CARTER TUCKER

JOHN MURPHY

WILLIAM H. WILSON

May 5, 1939.

CHARLES B. TURNEY

CHARLES W. HESS, JR.

CARLIN P. SMITH

LAW OFFICES

831 SCARRITT BUILDING

KANSAS CITY, MO.

TELEPHONE VICTOR 3020

Governor Lloyd C. Stark,

Jefferson City, Missouri.

My dear Governor:

First, let me congratulate you. You are gaining strength everywhere because you are on the right side of this case. I hope the Senate will not be able to tie the matter up.

Until your bill becomes a law, Kansas City will be at the mercy of the Organization. The Police Department is their gun; as long as they have it, they will make us step around. Please remember that only two men have stepped out of the picture - McElroy and Higgins. Otherwise, it is the same old Organization, chattering of virtue and reform like a covey of harlot magpies. The Organization and its satellites have taken everything we have - nearly - except the sewer system. If, without hazard, the bill can be made bipartisan, it would suit us mightily.

In spite of everything, our county government remains unchanged. The officials are still corrupt and the people are still helpless.

Let me offer you this suggestion:

I have said over and over again that the great majority of our policemen are chivalrous, patriotic men who would rather enforce the law than violate it. They have been acting under orders and would welcome a clean, capable direction. They are disorganized and disturbed with the belief that they are all going to be kicked out. If you could in some casual way let it be known that if, and when, you appoint Police Commissioners you will seek such men as you appointed as Election Commissioners, and that those policemen who have been faithful need have no fear of losing their places, it would have a good effect here.

Sincerely,

John T. Harding

JTH:H