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July 19, 1939

Re: Police Board – (confidential).

Hon. Lloyd E. Stark,

Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Governor,

As a Democrat sympathetic to your objectives, I feel duty bound to advise you as to our prospective member of the police board. I doubt if you know the facts with respect to him. The personnel is highly important in attaining your objectives, of course, and I do not want you to make a mistake. Its integrity, loyalty to you and your ideas, ability to act without pocket-book self-interest, and, above all, to have the confidence and respect and public support of honest citizens are of course the fundamentals required. I have no axe to grind, have never held or been a candidate for public office, and approach the question objectively.

What I have to say is mostly this:- The local papers have mentioned as possible appointees and fire men as Shook, Winger, Neel, etc. One paper mentioned Ralph E. Murray (the Journal), I know Murray well. Murray is just not your type or the type desired. His background, past and present, is this (and to aid you it is necessary to speak frankly). The facts can be easily confirmed. He was born and raised in upper New York state; Irish descent on both sides. His common school education, and possibly high school, was in Catholic schools (religion of course is immaterial – I am just giving you the picture). He worked as a salesman for awhile and then went to University of Missouri, although his folks and relatives were all in New York state. He came to Kansas City after the War. He

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was a second lieutenant. He is strongly anti-Roosevelt and anti-labor, although a Democrat of course by descent. He is strongly anti-American Legion, from what he says. He has been with the Hogsett law firm since he came to K.C., first on a salary, and in the last few years a limited partner with several others; about a salary basis. Hogsett of course is a Coolidge Republican. Murray was with Hogsett in the recent Donnelly Garment Company case, involving a labor-union dispute, which received so much publicity, representing the Donnelly Company against the union, with Senator Reed. He is cantankerous, with a quick temper. He is very average as a practicing lawyer. He is not particularly well know; in fact, unknown as far as the general public is concerned as his name has been in the papers but seldom. [*text stricken through*] Henry Depping, machine Republican, former assistant attorney General under Cau[1]field (I believe it

was Cau[1]field) is connected also with Hogsett as limited partner. Depping is the close political associate and friend of Charles (Andy) Orr, who offices in same building, close to Hogsett office. Orr and Metz are the ringleaders, with Depping, of the old remnant of the Republican faction, which worked so closely with the Pendergast machine. Orr was the Republican member of the election board with Fred Bellemere et al, which was in office when the election frauds took place. Orr is in Depping's office, or vice versa, almost daily, and this has gone on for years. The Republicans such as Blackmar, Longworthy, etc. have little to do with the Orr-Depping-Metz crowd. This is the Republican

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clique which placed the ostensible Republican challengers, judges and clerks in the Democratic precincts in the First and Second Wards where the frauds occurred which were prosecuted. You will recall that Orr got the appointment as election commissioner with Bellemere without opposition from the Democratic machine. Murray of course is friendly to his business associate Depping, and to Orr who is about the office so much. Depping and Orr are political strategists and opportunists. Depping would get many things from Murray if he was appointed, without Murray knowing what it was all about. Hogsett dominates Murray of course; in effect he is an employee, subject to the wishes and caprices of Hogsett. Murray could not afford to go against the wishes of Hogsett on Depping. He does not make much and has alimony to pay (his wife divorced him about two years ago). Alone, his practice would be doubtful.

Murray can find support, and may have, by asking for it from his Un. Of Mo. associates – they would hesitate to turn him down. Depping probably handled the strategy. However, I doubt if they know many of the above facts due to their almost total absence of business contacts with the Hogsett office.

Sam Blair, assistant U.S. Attorney (fine, honest and very capable) is an old personal friend of Depping[']s (who is a good fellow outside of being a natural and very practical political), and would hesitate not to recommend Murray because of Depping. He probably does not know of many of the above facts because he has no business or other close contacts with the Hogsett office or with Depping's political maneuverings.

Sincerely

A.B. Seymour

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[page 3 "(Confidential, of course)" *written in margin*]