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September 15, 1938.

My dear Lloyd:

I needed so much to talk to you, when in J.C. at the Convention - but I felt it would be cruel to take a single minute of your precious time THEN. I am glad you had the splendid trip to California, and I have read in the September Democratic Digest that you were in Colorado and attended the meeting there of Democratic ladies when Mrs. Wolfe was speaker. She is my very good friend, and I felt glad that you were there.

Well, we have played right into the hands of K.C. with the State Committee. I wonder how Mrs. Rigdon, of Chaffee, can act as Vice-Chair of the State Committee, when she is in charge of W.P.A. Women's Projects, headquarters in Farmington, I believe. I know she is doing this work, for her superior, Mrs. Kell Findlay who is in charge of the more than twenty weaving, etc. projects, and who is a personal friend of mine, was talking to me about her work last Saturday. I understand, Mrs. Bertha Green, Poplar Bluff, had been fired because of too active participation in politics - and we straightway appoint or select a Vice Chairman who is a Supervisor. But it may work out all right. She is a rank K.C. follower, and I understood did much for Billings in the past campaign, but she is young, vigorous, has personality, knows the Women's work as outlined by our leaders in Washington, and, in the past, has been very co-operative. It may work out all right.

From every side, while in J.C., the women would quietly tell me how pleased they were to work for Douglas, and would add that they would be glad to work at a future time to help clean-up the K.C. mess. I hope you are reading the story of "THUNDER OVER KANSAS CITY" in Liberty - first installment September 17th. Judge Douglas said in county after county, when he would go to the Court House he would find the entire county organization against him, but as he talked to the women on the fringes they were for him, had had a letter from me asking to support the Judge, and through all of the excellent work you did, the women's work seemed to dove-tail into success. Please ask Frances Ramsey to dig out the report which I made for you on August 3rd - for I surely want you to see just what WE women did, and how reasonably. Oh, there was loads more I could have done, but I had asked for only \$500.00, and I was afraid to spend more because I always want to make my word good.

Now, Lloyd - please set your sails for U.S. Senator RIGHT NOW - and keep on "sawing wood". This tiling has got to break, and you are the ONE person to break it. If we can only get a right-seeing, right-thinking man headed toward the Governorship, who will keep up the fight for better government. We are the black spot in the whole United States, and there seems to be a silent understanding on the part of the majority of our Democratic women, as to our goal. Unfortunately, two of our leaders among the women (about whom I wrote you this summer) spend all of their efforts toward keeping the women headed toward directorship from K.C. - Mrs. B and Mrs. C. Let's watch - and be ready to break this combine later, for this Douglas success is an excellent wedge. And I

want to tell you that you ARE THE MOST POPULAR DEMOCRAT among the majority of the women of Missouri. I am not trying to flatter, but you have a force in your hands for good, and I know you will try to use that force to best advantage.

All of this is preliminary - what I want to write to you about is this:

When Mrs. Crossman organized the Women's Chamber of Commerce, she appealed to me for the names of strong ladies out-state and I gave them to her. She organized this group principally from names which I furnished to her. I was warned by Mrs. Schuyler Smith of the County, and others, to go slow - she was a "racketeer", but I supposed it was jealousy, and continued to "trust" Mrs. Crossman. When I returned to finish up the campaign, she wanted to furnish me rath the names of the Druggists' wives and the school-teachers. She said she was supporting Douglas at a great sacrifice, but really wanted to help. In the second week before the Primary, the Globe Democrat Reporter said that Mrs. Grossman was giving out Billings cards, she had said to Billings people that she had obtained from our Douglas Headquarters all of my lists, and that I was dumb enough to give them to her, etc. I convinced the Globe that there was no truth in the story, that my files were on my desk in six boxes, cards, indexed by counties, and not a box was out of my sight at any time.

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At one time she told me that K.C. had offered \$1,000 for her services through the Woman's Chamber of commerce of the State - and the Globe fished it out as a fact.

My point is this - do what you can to deep this (thing) from being used as a "rackett. Of course we want the marriage hill to pass, hut after all why don't the doctors put through their own bill.

Mrs. Windsor, who is President of the Child's Conservation Congress, of St. Louis, and has been for twenty years, warned me to watch my step with Mrs. Crossman, I am one of the Vice-Presidents, and have -presided at several of their luncheons, and tried to stir UP interest in the fight on syphilis, and push the marriage bill. Mrs. Windsor resigned, because she was afraid to proceed further.

Dr. Harriet Cory, who works with me on the Library Board, as she is Medical Director for our Staff, has co-operated with us, but I notice she is always in favor of a little different hill, one that all doctors approve, etc., and I really believe she understands the situation, hut we have never discussed this situation, openly,

I don't know what you can do, but I felt you should know the facts. I feel deeply responsible for having all of these women out-state at work, making money and sending it into headquarters, when I hear such terrible things about the past life of the head, and when I have just had this experience with her. I am just afraid she is not true blue. Just last week she tried to tell me that Missouri would not he Democratic except for the Pendergast organization, and she did not understand what was meant by trying to split our whole State Party. I just listen, and say little - but I know good and well that this state can go Democratic with the right kind of leadership, without playing right into K.C. hands.

You proved that in this campaign when you went directly to the people.

Mrs. Stark was kind to have us all over for tea, for there were so many of us. You have done such a wonderful job on the Mansion. I did not at first like the idea of making it white, but it was the old aversion to CHANGE. It had been red for so long.

I am back of you, Lloyd, with all of the powers I may have - to help to continue this process of cleaning out "bossism." I guess we just have to keep quiet until we get Bennet to wherever he wants to go - but I boil beneath the surface many times. Don't be afraid of my talking too much, however - mine is all vented in ACTION.

Thanks for reading this. Now tear it to shreds, put the facts in the back of your head, and go along. At least, this has taken less time for you than if I had tried to see you in J.C.

Don't you think I and my bunch of gratis helpers did a big job on the amount of money we had? Referring, of course, to the Douglas campaign.

Thanks for letting me intrude.

Kind wishes. Both you and Mrs. Stark look fine. I hope your mother is getting along all right.

Sincerely,

Elsie Belle McD