St. Joseph, Mo.

May 4th 1938.

Hon. Lloyd C. Stark.
Governor of Missouri.
Jefferson City, Mo.

My Dear Sir:

As a Democrat, and as a strong believer in free speech, and free Press, a country where people may have the liberty of thinking for themselves, with liberty to act accordingly, without endangering the loss of their jobs, or their hopes of securing work honorably, which should be the right of every citizen regardless of color, or creed, and through out this State, and Nation, I wish to commend you, and the stand you have taken, against boss rule, or machine politics.

The stand you have taken against Pendergast rule, will no doubt, increase your prestige with the well thinking, and better class of voters, at least 100 per cent. I feel proud to know, that after so long a time we as citizens, and tax payers of the state of Missouri, have at least, and after so long a time, elected one man as Governor, who knows, and feels himself, big enough, to tell Tom Pendergast, and his adherents, what to do, and where to head in at.

May God bless you, in your every effort to put down, and blot out, this rule, which is one of the greatest curses, and the blackest stain on human rights, and rightful liberties of the good people of our state today.

Quite a number of our County, and City, officials here in St. Joseph, are doing their utmost to encourage, and to get Pendergast rule, here in our city, and county.

They go to Kansas City and question Pendergast on every thing that comes up for consideration. I hope and trust that you as Governor of this great state, may use your influence, and lend your good service, in stamping out this dirty stain, which blackens our state in the eyes of the nation.

Unless there is immediate steps taken to
blot out this curse, no doubt a vast number of our good Democrats will swing away from our party in the coming elections.

There is no doubt in the minds of our well thinking people of this city, but what our present city officials are working under Pendergast rule at present.

Pendergast rule here forced numbers of W.P.A. workers, to vote against their best judgement, in our city election, April 7th 1938.

Those who did not vote as they were instructed to, have lost their jobs since the election. If Attorney General McKittrick, would come to St. Joseph, and make a quiet investigation among the W.P.A. workers here as to the threats that were made against them, if they failed to vote as they were instructed, I am sure such an investigation would have telling effects in breaking down Pendergast rule in this city, and would restore greater confidence of the people in the purposes of the Democratic party. Our present Mayor was not elected to his second term of office, because of popularity and good judgement but instead, was elected through those who knew their jobs depended on his election.

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and through threats to those on the W.P.A. – that every one would be dropped from the list who failed to vote for our present officials. Do you feel that such tactics, should be allowed, or is right, or just?

Law enforcement on such questions, would go farther in restoring confidence in our present officials, than anything else at the present time.

Lawlessness, and vandalism, should be put down where every it takes place. I want you to know that I am with, and for you, and I am sure a majority of the voters of this state are with, and for you, in your every efforts, to put down bossism[,] vandalism, machine politics, and slavery in this great state of ours.

Your spirit and purpose is right, and no doubt will be crowned with success in the end.

I am at your service to do any, and everything possible to quell, and to quench machine politics in this state.

Go forward with the good work you have started, and restore Missouri back to the honest vote of the people. Don’t be afraid

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of anything or anybody, for you can’t help but know that you have got the backing of a big majority of the people of this state, in your efforts to weed out all crooks, and imposters, for which we have so many in office today.
May God help you, to raise your voice, that it may be heard, all over this state, in protest of the election, of any man, or woman to office, who upholds, or bows to such low violations, as we now have in this state.

Trusting to see your good work, and purposes go on, on a much greater scale from now on, and to assure you that your elevations among the people, in taking up this work at this time, will be unmeasurable, I am yours Truly and Faithfully yours.

Robert W. Tomlinson

1604 So. 10th St.

St. Joseph, Mo.