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P.O. Box 33

Ashland, Mo.

May 9, 1938

Dear Governor Stark:

I wish to congratulate you upon the noble fight you are waging against the Pendergast regime of our state. I also wish to offer you my assistance in any way I may serve. Am ready to help organize, to campaign for the issue.

The Nichols family of Boone County has cast many, if not the most votes of any one family for The Democratic Party of this State.

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I have come in contact with The Pendergast Machine. If I had been willing to ask his endorsement and subscribe to the "rules" I would have been on the liquor enforcement squad or rather inspection bureau under the last Mr. Becker. I refused after the conference with Mr. Becker, who said he would recommend me and thought I was a good man, to ask aid of Mr. Pendergast. Of course I did not get the appointment.

One other thing I think will help you in this campaign. Many employees of The Highway Department are there from the last election for the sole reason that they pledged Pendergast support. They

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are still there and are drawing pay until after the next election. Two from my own town are there. If this Department could be purged of all these parasites this would put your cause much better with the people. We are justly proud of our roads, but at the same time feel that they are costing too much because of graft and the machine. Many of our best people hope this can be remedied.

Excuse this long letter but I thought you should be encouraged and congratulated on your stand. Call on me for any assistance in my power.

Yours truly

Robert F. Nichols.