

Copies to Judge Murphy, Mr. J. O. James & Mr. Hollingworth

Maryville, Missouri

May 20, 1938

Honorable Lloyd C. Stark

Governor of the State of Missouri

Jefferson City, Missouri

Honorable Sir:

As requested, I submit the following regarding the Douglas-Billings race in Nodaway County, After two days of travel out in the county, I would conclude as follows: This matter is not talked a great deal here, interest being in candidates for local office rather than in the Supreme Court race. There are a good many Democrats here who are pleased to see that the Governor is not favoring the Pendergast organization. This county has, of course, always been an anti-Pendergast county although such candidates as Dwight Brown, Forrest Smith and others have received good support here, however, this was due to the candidates themselves and not to the fact that they were endorsed by the Kansas City organization.

It is too early to secure much of a list of Billing's supporters. However, the active lead for Billings will be taken by John Rush, Chairman of the Democrat County Committee; Stanley Ferguson, Chairman of the Young Democrats organization of this county; Ellis G. Cook and Floyd Cook, attorneys; and ex-mayor O. L. Robey. Just what others will follow this leadership would be hard to say, at this time. Rush and Ferguson each have some following in their respective organizations, however, I do not consider them much of a threat. As to the two Cooks - they have always been unpopular and have always been "off the reservation". Robey has some following but that following has dwindled since his defeat for mayor of Maryville by Lowell B. Campbell. Incidentally, Mayor Campbell's son, Dean Campbell, has ask for a place on the State Embalming Board and I can see a chance to enlist the support of the Mayor and his organization if this could be done. I merely mention this as a matter of information.

When Judge Billings visited Nodaway County he was introduced around Maryville by Ellis G. Cook, the attorney mentioned above. There was much comment on Judge Billing's unfavorable personal appearance. I would say further that the fact that Cook went around with him, would be a good "break" for Judge Douglas as Ellis Cook is very unpopular here. Besides visiting Maryville I find that Judge Douglas visited Burlington Junction (Ferguson's town), Barnard (Rush's town) and also the Monastery at Conception. I talked to Fr. Seisbert, Parrish Priest at the Monastery and I feel sure that

some of the Catholic Democrats will vote for Billings due to the fact that Pendergast is also a Catholic.

To get to the other side of the ledger, Judge Douglas will have the support of the more stable type of Democrats here. Douglas' leadership will be headed, of course, by Col. Stauffer and his paper. Others that are definitely for Douglas are Judge M. E. Ford, Circuit Judge; T. G. Robinson, Postmaster and his two brothers who run the Nodaway Valley Bank; B. M. Chandler, Deputy Oil Inspector and member State Democratic Committee; Judge A. P. Kidder, Presiding Judge of the Nodaway County Court. The bulk of the Democrat members of the

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Nodaway County bar and the Democrat County officials will also be for Douglas. Frankly, I would say, that if this election was being held today, unquestionably Judge Douglas would receive a nice majority here. What may develop, of course, no one can say but, I feel, that when we compare the quality of the leadership already established for these two candidates, that Judge Douglas surely will be able to carry Nodaway County.

Respectfully yours,

Edison Blagg.