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COPY

Kansas City, Missouri

May 21st, 1938.

Hon. James V. Billings,
Judge of the Circuit Court,
Kennett, Missouri.

Dear Judge Billings:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 16th, soliciting my support of your candidacy for Judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Personally I feel friendly toward you. The fact that we were born and reared about forty miles apart in Northeast Missouri, creates in me a feeling akin to comradeship. Again, the fact that you are so highly endorsed by my good Democratic friend, General Barker, is a guarantee of qualification and an assurance of fitness for the high office.

But on the other side of the ledger, I find these considerations. I am a Republican, and have always been loyal to my party, as my record will disclose. And you, as a loyal Democrat, certainly would not ask me to tarnish my record, regardless of the personal urge.

In the second place, your candidacy is being primarily sponsored by the Pendergast machine of Kansas City. I have consistently fought this machine for many years. I am against political machines, regardless of party label. I think they are at once a blight on Americanism and a serious menace to the future of our country. The Pendergast machine has almost completely devastated Kansas City. Today, more than three

hundred thousand persons here are the sad and suffering victims of a relentless, cruel, racketeering, criminal machine, known as the Pendergast organization.

Under its administration of our affairs, business conditions have steadily declined, and they are at a lower ebb today than they have been in forty years.

At present there are more than five hundred vacant storerooms and business buildings in our down-town district.

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Real Estate values have melted below the timber line of the first mortgages, while taxes on real estate have not been reduced.

The population within the corporate limits of Kansas City has steadily declined during the last ten years.

Many large business concerns have pulled up stakes and left Kansas City to go to other cities.

The prosecuting attorney, the chief peace officer of Kansas City refuses to prosecute under the state laws the admitted crimes of election frauds and many other cases, such as the notorious Gargotta case.

Twenty-three hundred proprietors of dives, dens and gambling joints are permitted to operate without police interference.

There has been established, through police manipulation, a populous red light district almost under the very eaves of the Kansas City Junior College.

Statistics show that Kansas City has the largest underworld population of any city in the

United States of comparable size.

The machine in recent years has prostituted the ballot by placing a fraudulent pad of sixty thousand names upon the registry books.

For a year our business concerns have been the victims of vandals - maurading gangs of uncontrolled hoodlums, daily and nightly breaking windows and destroying property throughout the city.

In other words, the machine has become so unspeakably rotten that the Governor of this State, the President of the United States and tens of thousands of others wearing the same party lable, have repudiated it.

In view of all these considerations, I will be unable to support you. With kindest regards, I am,

Yours, sincerely,

David M. Proctor

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