

J. T. PINNELL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
PINEVILLE, MO.

June 8, 1938.

Hon. Loyd C. Stark,
Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Governor Stark:

I have been intending for some time to write you commending you for the notable work you are doing toward elimination of our rotten political machine, but I sometimes wonder if you really know the colossal proportions of that same machine!

Even down here in the corner of the state the "machine" is in absolute control and functioning now as it did in the last election - perfectly, according to machine standard.

I believe all of the Democratic county office holders have Mr. Billings' picture set up in their offices; the Post Masters, having received their appointments through the recommendation of my friend, Frank Lee while he was in Congress; and the whole Relief [?] organization - all are in the boss' line ready to do anything required of them. Every white-collared PWA and Relief boss and Time-keeper will be right in there, as they were two years ago, to see to it that everybody living off the government shall vote the machine ticket.

I sincerely believe the Boss has his machine operating in every county in the state. Of course, decent, patriotic men and women are not in it, but the trouble is that they are not organized at all, and consequently, will not be able to make their force felt.

After being born a Jeffersonian Democrat and voting that ticket for forty years, I accepted a place on the Republican ticket two years ago for no other purpose than to fight machine dominance and to defy the Relief organization. The result of my fight, so my political foes have said, was to lop off about 2,000. votes from the total which otherwise would have gone for the Boss dominated candidates. No one had the temerity

to call me a Republican and assuredly, the Republicans never claimed that I was a Republican.

I am still and will always be, a Jeffersonian Democrat. I believe in honest elections and have really fought for them. Somehow or other, the people of this state ought to be convinced that they may vote as they please without being penalized for it. Given the benefit of an honest election, your candidate for the judgeship will win - otherwise, it will be stolen from him.

Sincerely yours,

J. T. Pinnell