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Centerville, Mo.

June 17, 1938

Gov. Loyd C. Stark.

Dear Governor:- please read my letter and give It all the consideration you can for I want you to know what has gone on and, is still going on down here in Reynolds County.

I was for you for Gov. and I am more for you now after watching your administration and reading the papers of how you are trying to rid Missouri of its filth and will tell you further on in my letter what the pendergast Lieutenants are doing here in Reynolds Co. I am doing my best for Judge Douglas, but the pendergast men are trying to ruin me because I am for Judge Douglas.

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I lost today's work on the State Highway because I said yesterday "Our Gov. is right, for Judge Douglas is the proper man for the place." W. C. Bowles is Maintenance man here at Centerville and because I said I was proud we had a Governor that would not listen to the dictation of Tom Pendergast, Bowles said "Our Gov. hasn't got sense enough to be Governor for he will not listen to anyone." "He needs an adviser." Governor, the people here in Reynolds County are afraid of C. M. Buford, W. L. Welsh, Tom Shriver, Jas. Haulfenberry. These men are Tom Pendergast's Lieutenants and are afraid to vote only as they tell them. I told Bowles I would like to go right in and tell the Governor what Pendergast is doing with the State Highway –

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And he (Bowles) with the other Pendergast men tells me I could not even get to see you.

I have signed five times for labor here in this County and four of my cards have been destroyed.

Through the month of May they let me work 1 Day and three hours, and me with a family of six children and my wife.

Ollie Gallaher, (District Foreman) told Bowles to be sure and not turn in actual work done on State Highway last Dec.

When they worked me on the blade they paid me 35 cents and all others 50 cents, why because I didn't agree with them and their Pendergast Crew.

Bowles left one morning before daylight to keep me from working because I had praised the Governor for what he was doing.

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When I was trying to get work, Ray Warner took two weeks leave from the Highway with pay th[?] drawing 85.00 per. month. Then he took six months absence. He went to Ellington and ask C. M. Buford to let him work as foreman on W.P.A.

Buford said, I think I can handle you, which he did until the Ellington Gymnaseum was finished.

C. M. Buford told Roy Warner a few days ago he could go back on the Highway anytime he wished.

Mr. N. N. Ropes, Division Engineer knows that Ollie Gallaher District Foreman has kept Truman parks who married a cousin of Gallaher in steady work at 35¢ on the truck, and told me there was no money appropriated for truck drivers, but kept parks steady work because he married relation.

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W. L. Welsh had C. M. Buford to get the Welsh by who was only 17 years old the time keepers job here at Centerville on the Gymnaseum, when I and other men was trying to get work.

W. C. Bowles said to Gallaher “what will I tell Carter Buford if he comes along and tells me not to work Brawley.” You see Governor, Carter Buford has been telling Bowles not to work me, because I don’t favor the Pendergast men.

Gov. I am sorry but every state man down here I believe is against you for I know W. C. Bowles, Maintanance man is for he tells me you haven’t got sense enough to be governor, you need an adviser, if course because Buford and W. L. Welsh thinks so.

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I am awful afraid for Judge Douglas, while I am doing my best for him.

In 1922 when I was elected Collector for Reynolds County H. L. Fitts took the poll books and votes out of the County Clubs office up to his house and erased the votes off of me and destroyed the votes and I couldn’t get him prosecuted for it. I am afraid they will steal the votes from Judge Douglas here in the Reynolds County this election.

Governor I’m sorry Mr. N. N. Ropes can’t make the State Highway be fair and honest with all laborers.

If N. N. Ropes Division Engineer, Ollie Gallaher District Foreman and W. C. Bowles Maintanaince man knew I was writing you, I would not even get a Day and 3 hrs from now on.

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These men are afraid I will come to Jefferson City and tell you, is the reason they tell me I could not even get to see you.

I would like to see you Governor and tell you the secret part of this which I can't write you in this letter, But if you will have Mr. N. N. Ropes to come to me here at Centerville I will tell him what they have done through 1937 and up to now of 1938, or if you would care Governor I would like to see you in person and tell you.

Hopeing you will be successful in the rest of your administration and that Judge Douglas will be Victorious in the coming election.

Yours most Sincerely,  
Harold E. Brawley