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Kansas City, Missouri

July Thirteenth

1938

Governor Lloyd C. Stark

State Capitol

Jefferson City, Missouri

Governor Stark:

This letter is being written to you after the writer was forced to listen to one of the most amazing statements I have ever heard uttered by a man whose duty is to glean votes for a candidate for office, and is for the purpose of endeavoring to retain for Judge Douglas as many supporters as possible in the coming primary.

Frankly, Governor, neither myself nor any member of my immediate family voted for you in 1936, believing that any man connected with the Pendergast machine would be governed by that machine. Naturally, we had nothing by precedent from which to judge. May I say at this time that this belief was one of the big mistakes in my repertoire of several thousand, and since that time have made apology upon apology for it, this letter being my personal apology to you.

However, I have tried to do more than make up for in words — I, with the ardent cooperation of many of my, friends have been working as best we can to further the cause of your preference for the Supreme Court, Judge Douglas. But now we find ourselves in the peculiar position of being invited to step out of the organization because our efforts are not appreciated by a ward leader.

It was my pleasure during the recent city election to serve as the writer of the radio scripts for the candidates, as well as acting as the Coalition Commentator over another local station. It was during this time that I became acquainted with Colonel Frederick Whitten and many of the other leaders in The Democratic Club of Kansas City, Missouri.

When the primary hove in sight, I offered my assistance in any way possible to

Colonel Whitten and to Mr. Joffee, and was, in this way, brought into contact with Mr. J. R. Suddarth, leader of the 3rd District of Kansas City, which includes the 10th Ward, in which I live and am a property owner.

At the first meeting, the ward leaders of the 10th during the city election were reappointed by Mr. Suddarth, and I was appointed to assist and advise with them. However, one of the leaders, one Frank Myers, not understanding why I did not immediately ask for a state job, expressed a dislike for me, and gave me to understand that he "was going to run this ward to suit himself, or he wasn't going to work at all." This was also displeasing to his co-leader, George Tucker, as well as myself, but Tucker decided to wait and see what time would reveal.

On the date of the closing of the registration lists for the primary, a check-up revealed that not one single voter had been placed on the books by our organization, although I know for a certainty that there are many in this ward who are otherwise eligible, but have not been registered. Upon questioning last night, Mr. Myers refused to reveal more than five of his precinct captains, out of a total of 30 that should be working in this ward. Moreover, a check-up shows that there are no more than these five!

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Governor Lloyd C. Stark

Jefferson City, Missouri

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In attempting to ascertain the cause of this condition a scant three weeks before primary, I have found that the vast majority of Myers' former workers now refuse to work for him, some because of his belligerent attitude, some because of his uncouth display of lack of intelligence, and some because Mr. Myers collected club dues immediately after the city election for which there have been no accounting, and which were not turned in to the headquarters fund.

I have taken this matter up with Mr. Joffee, and he assured me last week that there would be changes made, but at the meeting last night Mr. Suddarth informed those present that Mr. Myers would remain in charge, while Mr. Tucker would be changed to

the Twelfth Ward, his place being taken by a Mr. Clohse, from the Ninth, who, by the way, happens to be one of the most energetic workers in the ranks at the present time. As for myself, Mr. Myers informed myself, and the friends that have been cooperating with me, that he was not inviting us to the next meeting, and that we were out of the ranks of the organization! Myself, personally, was to keep my - - - - - nose out of the Tenth Ward! And that, after living in the ward since 1915!

I have not been in touch with Mr. Joffee since the meeting, but I shall do so at the earliest possible moment, although Mr. Myers informed me that I had no business going up to see him, and that I HAD to take up anything pertaining to votes with him, to be handled through Mr. Suddarth.

However, I want to go on record as stating that I, as well as the many friends who agree with me that the Pendergast machine must be stopped in Kansas City, will go right on working for Judge Douglas, even if it becomes necessary to organize our own individual group to do so, and this group will include members from my home precinct which, because it contains only 195 votes, is too small to bother with, according to Mr. Myers

And just to allay what might seem to be an obvious reason for the bit of rebellion on the part of the small group I represent, may I say that there is not a disgruntled ex-machine member, nor anyone who is disappointed in not receiving a job, in the entire group. They are mostly working people who are working for an ideal, and whose sole thought is to clean up the political situation in Missouri. It was these things that brought about the downfall of Tammany, and would seem hardly out of place here.

And lest my own natural affiliation be questioned, I wish to add further that my nearest relative, with the exception of my Mother, is the present Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Jesse Holman Jones.

Thanks, Governor Stark, for your consideration of this somewhat lengthy letter, and trust that you will not see it as a rebellion against discipline, but in the light in which it is offered — that it is a poor sailor that will not go directly to the captain when the mate is about to be washed overboard!

With best regards, and again assuring you of my every cooperation,
I am

Very truly yours.

Cecil F. Holman

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