

LAW OFFICES  
HORACE MERRITT  
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

[page 1]  
July, 20, 1938.

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

Dear Governor:

I trust you will pardon my intrusion upon your time with a letter, but you will probably remember of receiving letter from me in April of this year immediately after Pendergast announced his fight against you and Judge Douglass, and I am anxious to see you win this contest and that Douglass be nominated, and the purpose of this letter is not selfish in the least, and I say this because as you will see from campaign card I inclose I am a candidate for county office, and might have cause to have selfish motive. However some of my close friends who are good democrats, are very much worked up against you, and because of their condemnation of you for your interview last fall which was published in the papers in which you called for cleaning up on old age pension lists and removing the "chislers" and which they say is the cause of what to them seems the most inexcusable and outrageous removal of worthy and helpless old people from the roll, they are bitterly fighting Douglass and advocating Billings.

You were right in removing "chislers", and I tell my friends that I do not believe Governor Stark thought for a minute that the Security Commission would remove helpless and worthy pensioners, but the Board has done so and then let their act in so doing be placed and the responsibility for same be placed upon the Governor, and it used in behalf of Pendergast and his candidate Billings. I do not think that you even remotely ever thought for instance that a poor old negro woman of this county who has no relatives or means of support would be cut off from the little \$9.00 per month she was receiving because she owned a little schack of a home that she could not cash for the

taxes she owes upon it of about \$100.00, and this is only one of many similar cases in this county, and these cases are being paraded and placed before the people and of course these old age people and their friends told that you are responsible for it and they are urged to vote against Judge Douglass for that reason.

My suggestion if you will permit me is that if you would simply give the press representatives an interview stating that your statement against the "chislers" had been wrongfully used, and misconstrued in such cases; that you did not approve of such injustice etc. it would go a long way to neutralize this effort to use the "chisler" statement to prejudice these old people and their friends against Judge Douglass.

Now just a word that is somewhat personal. I have known Fairleigh Enwright the local manager of Douglass' campaign in this county since he was a school boy. When I located in Buchanan County in 1915 having moved from Joplin Jasper County where I had lived for 16 years, one of the first friends I made was Charles (Culle) Enwright the father of Fairleigh, and he and I was the first advocates of the nomination of Governor Gardner in this county for the nomination for Governor, and I had three articles advocating the nomination of Gardner published

[page 2]

in the Peoples Forum columns of the News-Press before anyone else had locally announced their support for him and these articles brought a me and Charlie Enright close together and we were often together and several times in Jefferson City in office of Governor Gardner after he was elected and had appointed Mr. Enright as his State Bank Commissioner.

Now Fairleigh talked and acted like he must support Judge Duncan and while I do not expect him to take any active hand in any one candidacy except that of Judge Douglass, I do think he could say privately to his friends in the Douglass campaign that I am an original Douglass man, and I know that Judge Duncan has always been a Tom Pendergast Democrat. A friend of mine happened to be a bystander in his office in 1932 when his nephew Hon. Richard M. Duncan, was about to leave for Kansas City to see Tom and get his support for him for congress in that year when they were all elected from state at large, and it was Dick's first race and heard Judge Duncan say "Now Dick go on

down there and tell Tom I sent you and I want him to get behind you and he knows I have always been with him and we have worked together for years etc."

Now Governor I regret somewhat to impose this rather long letter upon you, and the main idea is to merely suggest for your consideration the neutralization of the prejudice stirred up among the old people against Judge Douglass on account of your "chisler" statement.

My hope is that Judge Douglas will win and I believe he will win by big majority.

As to my own race I am confident of winning for there seems to be a ground swell of resentment among the voters against these six or seven term candidates.

With all good wishes for you in your courageous fight for the people I am

Respectfully Yours,

Horace Merritt