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Jackson, Missouri

July 8, 1938

Hon. Lloyd C. Stark

Governor of Missouri

Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Stark:

Referring to your letter of July 2 which was received July 7 will say that I received some information on the two-day outing into the Ozark as far as Cassville and Roaring River.

By the first of the week I will have an interesting survey from virtually every county of importance if everything clicks. I have letters in hands of people whom I can trust, both Democrats and Republicans, and this information should be authentic every-day layman topic discussion as to how the parties stand on the Douglas- Billings race. Believing down in my heart that you will keep me out of the picture and go as far as to return these letters if necessary to clear me from you official records I will be in position to give you information which should have been in your hands two or three months ago, but with your method of attack and finding the black sheep in the fold I believe you can win a heroic battle and if it must be the contrary, your rank among governor's will be at the top in an effort of trying, and remain among the outstanding men to lead this state.

Beginning at home, Jackson, you have a strong booster in R. K. Wilson of the Missouri Cash-Book, who incidentally is the political rival of the Cape County Post, edited by Fred E. Kies, for whom I am employed. I leave it to your honesty to leave my name out of the picture when you contact Mr. Wilson because he doesn't like us politically in this county because that just goes with politics. In civic affairs we cooperate with him 100%. If any information is wanted through him as to my reference and authenticity you will likely get an unfavorable response and publicly exposing this would hurt your cause and place me a hypocrit giving you this information. But for the sake of good government I would sacrifice personal gain for advancement, appointment, etc. to

win a point to help you. If you win the point I am for you but would prefer to be left out of the public picture in the assistance.

I noticed from the press that you could not accept the invitation to attend the anniversary of the negro CCC camp in this county near Delta because of other duties. I am surprised this invitation was given you by Mr. McClintock, county chairman, because with the recent appointment of Mr. Oliver here as prosecuting attorney, which was a favorable one, McClintock has openly made the statement that he would not back your man because of the selection. Other similar statements meant he would likely follow the other crowd of Judge I. R. Kelso and John Ferguson to aid the Billings cause. I understand this puts you on the spot with John Ferguson one of your appointees who is trying to keep his boys down in Cape Girardeau from calling Jefferson City to keep him out of the hot water.

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One of his first lieutenants, "Snakey" Moore has been quite active with the Pendergast crowd the past two years trying and delivering some of the vote. This same Moore told me in Jackson that his (Moore's) appointment to some agriculture position in the state was hanging fire because of John Ferguson's neutral attitude up in Jefferson City. Ferguson has been evading the issue to come to Cape county to line up the Pendergast crowd and this problem has been irking the lieutenants. If Ferguson refuses to leave Jefferson City it will weaken the Cape county influence for Pendergast toward Billings and greatly aid the Douglas. The college crowd, attorneys, and thinking people in this county or talking and will likely vote Douglas.

Down in Scott county the story goes different. You will recall Otto Schoen of Fornfelt, resigned a position under your appointment to seek a position under the Dwight Brown department, and still the job was less lucrative or at least none hotter. This was done, according to a Fornfelt doctor, who is on the inside that Schoen might keep out of hot water and get on the Dwight Brown band wagon for governor in 1940 and if the bubble burst then toward the governorship, he will still be available for the secretary of state position. The position referred to was filled by the appointment of Conley Grove of Poplar Bluff. Now for the leadership at Sikeston ethics of newspaperdom does not warrant

mentioning names but conviction and honest integrity does, so here goes:

Your ace man and supporter in Southeast Missouri, wearing no-man's collar is Hardin M. Crowe of Dexter who succeeded me as president to the non-political Southeast Missouri Press Association. You will note the "non-political." That's why I insisted that you appear at the Fredericktown meeting with the George Rozier balance, and then the National Editorial Association head, Mr. Will Loomis of LaGrange, Ill. Your announcement of the Douglas meeting in Jefferson City set the bomb off to get the Billings and Pendergast following to rush to Fredericktown and get the rush-act across with the personal touch. The delegation headed by Billings, his manager, Bob Winn, Forrest Smith and Dwight Brown, stormed the town and almost gave the morning session of the meet of editors competition. Throughout the noon hour when the editors were entertained with many of the Fredericktown business men in session at the city park some remarked looks like the opening of a political rally. Some of these same followers asked for the permission if it be possible to have Judge Billings introduced, but I thought this was almost too much, especially since he did not represent a newspaper or a newspaper family, or any connection with it. However, with the reading of your telegram that you could not attend it wasn't long O. J. Ferguson drummed up another speaker before I could rearrange the program. It was somewhat of an inconvenience because the leads on the program shortened their planned speeches to make room for the extra speaker. Anyway we got along with the praises of handling the situation well for the greatest crowd and handling the interference. But the joker of it all was that in the afternoon with the national editorial association president on the program scheduled for 3 o'clock, I delayed his speech until 3:30 because a grape-vine route told me a Pendergast-Billings meeting was being called off-record in a hotel. The un-announced delay and sandwiching of extra numbers resulted in some of the editors leaving for the meeting without hearing Loomis.

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I am not saying who these editors were who attended the meeting because I was not there, "but for your convenience will say that since the press meeting was non-political, I "began breaking down the crowd to find out who was there. Politically the same

Republican editors who were in the sessions in the forenoon were back in the afternoon without several additional. Among the independent editors were the John Wolpers personnel and the Naeter representatives. Among the Democrats remaining for the speech of the national president, Loomis after 3:30 were Hardin Crowe of Dexter, Alden Pinney of Benton, O. W. Chilton of Caruthersville, S. E. Barr of Piedmont and Jess Stewart of Bonne Terre. Other Democratic editors were about the meeting place at the opening of the meeting such as Col Bouchard, Col. Blanton, Senator Paul Jones, Chas. C. Oliver of Bloomfield, the Daniels crowd, Wilson Bell. Where they were after 3:30 some people would have their doubts and others know. Col. Blanton has been trying his best editorially to stop Hardin Crowe with his purge of the supposed Pendergastism supported by C. C. Oliver in Bloomfield, but Hardin is determined to win out helping you, so if there is a break due any Democrat from this section its Crowe. And you can rest assured a Republican, Ruben R. Schade, has been boosting him because there had been an undercurrent to nominate someone else to the presidency but the nominating committee stopped this. If there is an opportunity I might favor a good honest Republican with convictions for a Republican appointment, such as the successor to Col. Mathews or a similar one, I would be glad to help you. Do not hesitate to call on me. If I am not mistaken isn't there still a vacancy on the eleemosynary board?

This information treatise and opening of an honest heart has reached almost too lengthy remarks. Monday or Tuesday I will forward some of my findings through that Ozark trip.

Sincerely,

Ruben R. Schade