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POWERFUL FARMERS ORGANIZATION IN THE CORN BELT.

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Judge James T. Montgomery

Montgomery & Salveter, Attorneys

Sedalia, Missouri

My dear Judge:

I herewith enclose an article which I have just finished, and which I intended turning over to the newspapers. However, upon second thought I have been in the papers so much during the last two or three weeks that there is danger of my overdoing it, and hence I am passing it on to you for such disposition as you may care to make of it if you think well of it. Of course, in any case, I am sure you would want to sharply revise it, or possibly take the thought, and dress it up entirely in your language, and either course will be satisfactory to me.

For many years you have been one of the outstanding lawyers in this State, and therefore an expression from you on the present contest will be of real public interest, and I think from now on men of your standing should get into the newspapers as much as possible, not only for local effect, but in a broader, state-wide sense. George K. Wallace, who is the political correspondent of the Kansas City Star, is a very able man, and if you should send him an article along these lines, with a definite release date, I am sure that he would handle it to your satisfaction, and you may say that you are doing this at my suggestion. However, as I say, handle this matter entirely as you wish, or pitch it

into the wastebasket.

I enjoyed meeting you the other night very much, and I especially relished your story about the barrow, and the reason why he had lost his social standing. You are one of Missouri's grand old men (not old enough to hurt, at that), and I consider it a privilege to be numbered among your friends.

Sincerely yours,

William Hirth

WH BW Encl.

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Why the Politicians Hate Stark

One often hears people express contempt for politicians, saying that they are all alike, and that once in office they forget the lofty principles which they advocated during their campaigns, that they are interested only in the "loaves and fishes," and in building a machine that will aid them in being re-elected, or in climbing to a higher office. Well, admitting that there is a great deal of truth in the above viewpoint, certainly Governor Stark is proving a refreshing exception to the general rule, and thus it is little wonder that Thomas J. Pendergast, the big Kansas City boss, has declared war on him, and that through the defeat of Judge James M. Douglas for the Supreme Court he has set out to kill two birds with one stone -first, to defeat Douglas who displeased him in holding with three other judges that, as demanded by Governor Stark last winter, the fire insurance funds impounded at Jefferson City should be returned 100% to the policy holders, and in so doing Pendergast hopes to revenge himself upon Governor Stark whom he endorsed two years ago, and who, despite this fact, insisted upon appointing honest election commissioners in Kansas City who have already eliminated 50,000 or 60,000 "ghost" and other fraudulent votes cast by the corrupt Kansas City machine in recent elections, and whose house cleaning in this respect has only begun.

As to Judge Douglas himself, not in years has a candidate offered himself for our Supreme Court whose ability as a jurist, and high character as a citizen are so outstanding, and thus that a brazen political boss should demand the defeat of such a

man for any reason is an astounding spectacle, but it becomes all the more sinister when the objective of such a boss is to bring the personnel of our highest judicial tribunal under his control.

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As to Pendergast's determination to "punish" the Governor because he has refused to become his tool, here the issue is so clearly defined that it cannot be mistaken — on the one side stands the Governor who is trying to live up to his campaign pledge for honest elections, while on the other side is the most corrupt political boss in the Nation who is enraged because the right of his machine to continue to cast thousands of crooked votes which have been the source of his power is, for the first time, being challenged. And in such a premise, can there be any doubt what the verdict of the people will be in the Primary on August 2nd? If we are interested in courageous public officials & clean elections as much as we profess to be, will we not overwhelmingly nominate Judge Douglas, and thus deal the machine a blow so crushing that it will be the beginning of the end of its control of our state government?

If Governor Stark had chosen to "go along" with the machine, nobody can doubt that he would have become its "darling," and thus he could have had its endorsement for U. S. Senator in two years from now, or for any other honor he might wish; but because the Governor believes that "a public office is a public trust," Mr. Pendergast who holds that "Politics is a business" has resolved to politically "exterminate" him, and thus the dual issue of Judge Douglas and the Governor as it confronts our people in the present campaign is the most fateful in the history of Missouri.

Nor is Pendergast the only one who has reason to hate the Governor, but playing second fiddle are most of the state officials who were nominated and elected through Pendergast, and who, in the hope of continuing in his favor, have ordered their thousands of employees to "go down the line" for Judge Billings. The most of these officials want to be Governor in two years from now, and therefore while they would gladly cut each other's throats, for the time being each of them is trying to "deliver" to the

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uttermost for the Big Boss in order to strengthen themselves in his favor, and thus the overwhelming nomination of Judge Douglas becomes vital in this respect — it will leave these professional politicians suspended in mid- air, and will mean a "house cleaning" in the State Capitol two years hence, and is not this "a consummation devoutly to be wished"?

Also many of the "court house rings" are against the Governor because in awarding jobs he is not satisfied that an applicant is merely "one of the boys" -- on the contrary, he insists upon knowing whether an applicant is capable of filling the job for which he asks, and whether otherwise his standing as a citizen is worthy, and in the opinion of a small-bore politician such an attitude is quite "irregular," not to say disgusting.

As one turns the foregoing facts over in his mind, one can appreciate how crucial the outcome of the present contest is — either through the overwhelming nomination of Judge Douglas we will establish a new milestone for honest government and clean elections in our State, or through his defeat we will publish to the World that a notoriously corrupt political boss controls our state government lock, stock and barrel, including our Supreme Court. And in the latter case, God pity Missouri!