

Route 1, Iberia, Missouri.

March 11th, 1938.

To His Excellency, Hon. Lloyd C. Stark,

Governor of Missouri.

My dear Governor,-

"Old Man River", shall he just keep on rolling along? T. J. Pendergast seems to think he is a mighty big river, but after thirty years as his neighbor and fellow Kansas Citian I have concluded that he is a SABBAT.

When by chance I encountered the enormous funeral procession of "Jim" Pendergast at twenty third street and Benton Boulevard in Kansas City along about 1908 or 1909 I heard for the first time the name Pendergast. Very few people outside that district bounded by 8th St., the bluff, the river and Grand Avenue had ever heard of Tom Pendergast.

Tom succeeded his deceased brother Jim to a meager ward leadership. This was his beginning. To this small start he has constantly augmented himself politically and obtained advantage after advantage. He has made politics a business. It pays him enormous dividends. All of Kansas City know this. Do they like it? They are helpless. By his religious ties, family relationships, political spoils, and political patronage Tom Pendergast and his faction or clique have become about all there is to Kansas City.

The complete ascendancy of our Commonwealth is his next objective. Old Tom probably does not covet this prize for himself as no doubt he would personally enjoy returning to the good old days when he was a North end "bar-keep" and just a ward boss. But, there are little Jimmy and his own son. Then, too, there is now embraced in his organization the wise and cunning religious sect which finds his system a wide avenue for getting for their own the best there is in dole or public employment. No wonder he likens himself to the big river.

Your attitude is commendable, your course is courageous. Even though you never again hold office your good name and fame will endure as perhaps the squarest, cleanest Governor Missouri ever had. And, just to make it unanimous I would like to see the last semblance of Pendergast job holders stricken from the payroll of the state before you turn the office over to your successor. As I see it it is now up to you to be aggressive and determined to rid the state Government of everything tainted with Tom Pendergast. He never forgives and never forgets the man who dares to oppose him. You are strong enough to outdo him in the state. Let him have and keep Kansas City until they tire of his yoke. Let us see to it that another Senator Truman does not go to Washington, and that clean capable men are elected to our Supreme Court. Do not allow our beloved state to pass into the hands of this modem SABBAT.

Why do I say these things? Answer: In 1912 I was defeated for the democratic nomination for the office of prosecuting attorney of Jackson County, Missouri. In that campaign I denounced the bosses and boss rule. From that time until the year of 1935 when I returned to my native County (Miller) I withstood the tyrannical oppression of this man and his clique. I had dared oppose him. He never got off me.

Earl Shackelford will tell you I am a campaigner. I am physically and mentally fit to handle anything from the Supreme Bench to that of Policeman. Command me.

Sincerely, your friend,  
Jackson C. Stanton.