

Kansas City, Mo. March 3, 1938

Mr. Loyd Stark,
Governor,
Jefferson City,
Missouri.

Dear Sir:

Am writing you relative to the conditions in Kansas City.

First I do want to commend you for your stand in picking the election board. I do believe they are fair inpartial.

With the city Election approaching I am appealing to you for aid in the way of Police Protection.

The writer is in the Hotel and Restaurant Business, in the East Bottoms - in what is known as the 'Machine Controlled District - and strong at that. There is already trouble brewing. I have often, of late, heard the remark made, 'there is going to be plenty trouble here Election Day'.

We have eight legal voters registered from the Smith Hotel and that is all. These are legal voters and it seems they are all lined up against the Machine. I was called on by three different ones Tuesday regarding the way the votes were lined up against the machine. I told the parties that I was a Democrat, have always been but not a McElroy or a Machine, that I do not believe in Machine Rule; but in free speech, free press and that a man has the right to exercise his own perogative in voting and that we should by all means have a fair election once without any unfair practices, and I for one was not for them. Now to-day comes the Health Inspector from the City Health Department. I happen to know the man pretty well and he told me that he had a complaint on the Restaurant and on the Sewer connection. He inspected the place, found some chipped dishes and gave me a written warning to rid the place of chipped dishes. That was OK. He went to the Sewer connection and could find nothing wrong and said he would have to send out a public Works man from that Department. I hardly think this will amount to anything. I really think it is just some little underpaid clerk want to get a little revinge because he

feels I am not helping him hold his job. I hardly think the Higher- ups have anything to do with it.

But now we have more trouble here that effects us all directly and indirectly. AS you know jobs are scarce and any time a major industry closes up it is more on the 'relief rolls'. Begining yesterday all of the Major Lumber Yards closed up, nailed up their entrances and displayed signs reading 'closed on account of racketeering, rodyism and until proper police protection can be assured, etc.' If this allowed to remain it is going to throw a lot of people of both county and city out of employment. It seems there has been a lot of rough stuff pulled lately, truck-drivers beat up, trucks damaged, windows broken and smashed, etc.

I do not believe any dependence can be put in the present bunch in office here to furnish Police Protection and we must have added protection. I do believe these present commissioners are going to give us a fair election and guard against the old system of every body knowing how every body votes. If only people can be assured to their own satisfaction that they are not going to be molisted in any way the majority is going to vote different to what they would other wise.

I want to express to you the the satisfaction that seems to previal among the people over your action in handling the state affairs. I do not often here anything else but a comment regarding the way you have conducted your office, but on the Sales Tax Question. There is a lot of dissatisfaction over that. It is wrong to tax the working class of people for the necessities of life, food and clothing particularly. I wish there was some way it could be lifted to help the man that is down. It is he that is down that needs the help.

This letter wrote confidentially, between you and the writer and with my position in my present location, I do hope you will treat it confidentially.

Would like to add though that this is the most Wide 'open' town I was ever in. The gambling houses, bookies, night dives, sporting houses are wideopen week days, nights and Sundays and no one barred. I never seen anything like it and no effort is made to check them. Just anything goes. saloons open on Sundays and all.

With best wishes, I remain,

Respectfully

J. William Smith,

Smith Hotel,

Station F.