

RICHARDS & CONOVER HARDWARE CO.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

April 8th, 1938

Hon. Lloyd C. Stark
Governor of the State of Missouri
Jefferson City, Missouri

My dear Governor:

I desire to thank you for your congratulatory letters addressed to the other three Election Commissioners and to myself.

We feel that we completed a huge and difficult task in a very limited time. Frankly, it is my opinion that no man, unless placed in the same position, can fully appreciate or understand the work involved in setting up the organization and function without conflict, handicaps and, perhaps, fatalities.

I wish to give my three associates full credit. While we did not always agree and on some major problems I felt it necessary to take a minority side, personalities and politics were left out of our deliberations, as apparently we were all striving to reach the same goal - an honest registration and an honest election.

Our problems and handicaps were many. I will not bore you by relating through this letter the many difficulties that confronted us. Perhaps sometime in a personal visit, if you are interested, I will to the best of ability give you the complete story.

Shortly after my appointment, I talked with Mr. T. J. Pendergast. He assured me that all he desired, and that he was speaking for his organization in making the statement, was an honest registration and a clean election. He assured me he would emphatically inform his organization that it must adhere strictly to the letter of the law and the rulings of the Board of Election Commissioners. I informed the other members of the Board of

this conversation and, of course, in all fairness I must state that from observation Mr. Pendergast kept his promise.

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I have high regard for the other three Board members, as I am convinced all were honest and sincere in working to one end and I believe that the good Democrats (and they are politically in the majority in the County of Jackson and State of Missouri) and all good Republicans throughout the state are convinced that the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners desires to operate without prejudice and with a full sense of fairness in accordance with the election laws of the state.

Your letters of commendation pleased all members of the Board.

With kind personal regards, I remain,

Cordially yours,

J. E. Woodsmanssee

Chairman

KANSAS CITY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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