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May 27, 1939.

Governor Lloyd C. Stark  
Executive Office  
Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dear Governor Stark;

When I discussed with you the matter of the Circuit Court in Jackson County, and the fact that it is the seat of power behind the Pendergast machine, I overlooked giving you one important bit of information that will have an important bearing on the charges I discussed with you, in case charges should be filed at any near date. It follows:

For the past twenty years Vincent J. O' Flaherty has held the unofficial position designated as Assignment Clerk. About thirty years ago, when there were four or five Divisions in our Circuit Court, he arranged with a few leading lawyers to stay at the Court House for them, keep track of the docket, and call them when a case neared trial, keep them advised of probable date of trial, and then when the case was assigned out by the presiding or assignment judge, advise the lawyer to which division his case was assigned and the probable hour it would be started. The lawyers paid him small fees for this service. As the machine has progressed, the Circuit Judges have left to him the assignment of the cases as they approached trial; and as his role has changed from "lawyers' information clerk" to "assignment clerk", his importance has increased—and his charges to lawyers for his services have increased. Favored firms now pay as high as \$50.00 per month to him, and in return get favorable service in having their cases assigned to a friendly judge. I can name for you one attorney who had six cases assigned

by Mr. O'Flaherty, in straight order, to the only unfriendly judge to him on the Kansas City bench--think of it: a machine maneuvering of lawsuits by an unofficial clerk in the administration of justice. It has made a mockery of our Circuit Court, and our Circuit Judges set up and recognized the system. The law contemplates the assignment of cases by the presiding judge--but the machine has devised, and for years used, a more potent system.

If your informers have not sufficient evidence on which to proceed against our outstanding machine controlled judges, ample evidence can be quickly secured. Mr. Whitten, candidate for mayor at our last municipal election told me several weeks ago he had enough evidence to reach them, and his evidence is available to you, of course.

Sincerely yours,  
Grover Childers