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March 5, 1940

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

Dear Governor Stark:

I am in the midst of a trial at this time, hence, can write you only a line.

I am disturbed by the fact that the Charter Party leaders have issued instructions to their precinct captains to accompany the election clerks on the official clerks' canvass next Sunday and Monday. They have asked us to instruct the clerks to cooperate.

I believe as a matter of principle it is fundamentally improper. It will create a dangerous precedent. If precinct captains of the various parties start accompanying the clerks, it will be possible for those who are disposed to intimidate clerks or voters to interfere with the canvass. Many of the clerks resent it. The members of the Board are opposed to it. It appears to me that there is no need for such action, because the Election Board has the situation well in hand. I am informed that if the Charter Party precinct captains insist on

accompanying the clerks, Madden intends to have the precinct captains of the Organization do likewise. We do not ask you to intervene to prevent it, but I am troubled by the apprehension that when the Board takes a position, the Joffe group will try to draw you into the matter. I dislike to see you involved, and want to do anything we properly can to avoid it. I feel that many good people consider that it is improper for party workers to be permitted to accompany clerks on an official canvass.

I hope that the trip was restful for you and that Mrs, Stark is now fully recovered.

Sincerely yours,

Paul G. Koontz

PGK:PW