

COPY

March 31, 1940

Gov. Lloyd Stark

Dear Sir:

First-please let me thank you from the bottom of my heart. Mr. Fry has been giving employment on the WPA assement dir. and we are so happy. Its now out of politics but with all the severe beating we had from the machine Mr. Fry is sure afraid to say a word. He is a good worker and I know the folks he is working with will say the same thing. I do hope Independence will have an investigation perhaps you will find lots of dirt here to clean up. We have a Mayor here who is really a double crosser if ever there was one. He can put on a swell front and say look what I have done. I say, any body who is honest can do as much and more if they had a bank rooling out the money that our light company is.

I was a worker for the machine from 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928 all through these years, then I had a break in health in 1929 and 1930. I couldn't work then in 1931. Jan. 2 Mr. Fry was just let out no reason given and no body seemed to know why or if they did, they wouldn't tell me. So I made a trip to Tom Pendergast the first I have ever seen him. Mr. Pendergast said Mrs. Fry there isn't any reason of me pretending I'll tell you the report has come to me your own people did it youve lost your following. I said Mr. Pendergast I don't believe that, if I could get a petition with 500 signers would you believe I had lost my following, if I could bring in to you in a week.

He said Mrs. Fry I'd say if you could do that take it to Harry, well in less than a week I had a good many more so I took them in to Harry Truman here in the court house one day. I was surprised when I go in his office to see a lot of men all standing around the room. I laid my papers on the desk and said will you please. And before I could say any more he

took his hand and scattered them all over the floor and said your out and out and stay out. I said will you please tell me what I'm charged with. He wouldn't answer. Mr. Purcell picket them out and opened the side door. I can

-2-

see me thrown out from then on it was dreadful. Mr. Fry and my Daddy went right on working every election day, and father was reading 220 meter daily 20 days in each month. He didn't belong to the club and took sick in July 1934. The doctor said he have to go away where it was warmer he asked Mayor Sermon if he could have 2 months off. He said yes with one months pay after working 18 years for city. Then when he died July 7, 1935 they forgot to make a warrant for him. He was just the forgotten man. After I talked with the Sup. of Light office 3 times I had to make a trip one in to see the Mayor and I got 7 days pay in cash for 18 years of faithful service. Well in Nov. 1935 Mr. Fry was given a foremans job out of work 5 years 11 months. 8 months of the time he was given work in summer of 34 in tax collectors office 2 months at \$50 that was when they cut every ones salary in two. Well the second month Mr. Fry was then out again so in Nov. 1935 I wrote to Mr. Purcell and ask him if he could try and do something for Mr. Fry. Well I have never felt Mr. Purcell was like Mr. Truman. I believed him fair and a perfect gentlemen. He has passed on since.

Well in a week Mr. Fry was told to come to work and in 1936 he took \$70 lug to court house \$20 for city election \$25 for each county election so when he was going to pay lug for 38 I said well pay in checks which we did \$70 again. Then when they laid off those who were on 18 month of course Mr. Fry had to come under that hammer, the first one, then when the clean up came on I wrote you for I wanted you to know how happy I was and I said to Mr. Trudy God's hand is behind this. And we'll find out yet why they laid us off. There truly was something crooked. Well its common knowledge here that Mr. Sermon hasn't really any use for the Latter Day Saints only when he could use them of course. They feel they have a right for some places as theyre almost 1/2 of the population. He has been heard to say and I'm only quoting "Boys do all you can well have to accept the Mormans the best we can, anyway. Well I had a bad fall the 6th of this

month and since I've been convalescing one of the workers that worked for me 12 years ago, 1928 election came to see me and I said I'm still hunting the reason of our let out. He said do you remember the day I called on you about running for Mayor. Mrs. Faunce seemed all worked up and angry then. It all came clear to me and this is what happened. Mr. Faunce and his wife were workers in the 4th ward and in 1924 Mr. Faunce lost his job with the railroad, and Mrs. Faunce came to me and cried said, Will you see what you can do to get Tom a job. I interceded for her and before the week was gone he was given a job in the city as desk sargent. Then in 2 years he was appointed Constable of Eastern Jackson County then the goats came and offered me a cottage at McCune

-3-

home they said they wanted to do something for me. I said no I couldn't go. I have a daughter 11 years but if you have any little job I could do whereby I could earn something I would be thankful so in a few days Mr. Salsburg called me and said if I could meet him at the Constables home so Mr. Fry and I went down he explained the personal tax suits were to be written up and collected. He explained the first #2 collected \$1 went to the Judge who furnished the place of collection. The other \$1.00 was the Constables and he furnished the collector and turning to me, he said, this is where you come in Mrs. Fry. Mr. Faunce will pay you 35¢ for each suit collected he and the judge will supply the postage so that week I wrote 400 suits and we mailed them out opening the office the beginning of the next week and at the end of the first week Mrs. Faunce said when do you want Tom to pay you.

I said at the end of each week so we proceeded to count them up and I multiplied by 35 and she then said no divide that in two. I said why divide and she said, well half that is mine 17 1/2¢. I said, oh no, you dont. I'll see Tom she said. He is away. I then said alright. I'll see Salsbury and when I called on him right away he said no the 35 is yours but if you want to divide with her that is up to you. When I came back I said no the 35 is mine. She straightway flew in a rage and was she. mad. I took the amount that was coming to me put a memo in the box and gave them to her. She had arranged to place the box of cash in Major Sermons safe. Well she said to Mr. Sermon. Rodge watch Mrs.

Fry in the election next month. She is going to knife the party just think this was 12 years ago. Well in just 2 years and 3 months Mr. Fry was let out and nobody would say what happened and I only learned of this terrible lie this month.

One of my workers began chiding the Mayor every time she saw him about she used to say to me, he is responsible you know, how he hates L.D.S. Well her husband worked in St. Depl and the first thing he fired him. Oh he has done so much to hold us out. 5 years 11 months then we got on WPA I'm so happy about Mr. Fry having secured he feels so safe now. Really he has been scared almost to death and I was so worried. I began to write here there even to Mrs. Roosevelt I think she is grand. And the election yesterday in K.C. was a joy forever. I truly hope they'll just keep on cleaning all way through Indep. has always had a shady deal in Gerbage deal. I hear but people just go along vote and some will say we might as well. I wish the L.D.S. would get a party up neither Dem or Rep. and do some cleaning right. We have a wonderful police Cap. Mr. Cate and his

-4-

men but the rest are really the mach. Well I hope I haven't wearied you to death with all these troubles but I have just felt you should know and thanks again. I only hope my health will be better so I can help you with your campaign but maby I couldn't according to the Hatch law.

This Constable I worked for was Mr. Tom Faunce. He made over \$33 in the 6 weeks I worked and made about \$87 in the 6 weeks and his wife wanted half. They collected about 3 weeks after letting me out. Mrs. Faunce for her lie got a steady job in the County something to do with old folks. Mr. Faunce died. Mrs. Faunce is Precient Capt of 17 precinct of 4th ward. also and has had steady work for 12 years. Now everybody in the Indep Court house knows of Mr. Fry's efficiency and its been a 12 year wonder.

Mr. James Frank in charge has often said both to me and Mr. Fry of how I'd like to have you back there. He'd say to me Mrs. Fry if I knew I'd sure tell you I said Mr. Frank I'll never give.

I'll hurt if it takes me forever and now this is what has happened. The reassessment project that Mr. Fry was working on has been sent to the Indep. Court house to work. I said to Mr. Fry let me tell some one about Mrs. Faunce 12 years ago. He said oh say nothing. I'm afraid I'll loose this job. He is so week and we have suffered so much on account of this but here is the dreadful gauling thing about it all. She has her office right next to where Mr. Fry is working. She got her job by telling the lie 12 years ago Mr. Sermon. We were knifeing the party when in reality we have voted every election since 1920 and always a straight ticket. She got her job by giving Mayor a chance to vent his rath his vengence on the L.D.S. because the machine always carried him along. Now he is trying to fool the L.D.S and everybody else by saying look what I've done there is a very fine attorney here. Mr. Benj. McGuire who I knew in the east as a boy. I used to go to him and say Ben what can I do. He say don't do anything until we know for sure. Of course, I blamed Mr. Cato. Even my pastor Mr. Sheey, for I didn't know about this lie tell the 10th of this March so I felt I'd write you. Mr. Pendergast told me it was my own people so I thought I'd write you. I've got to tell some one and I'll give you some names for reference as to the way I worked and always have been a Democrat.

-5-

This as I say didn't only hurt me. Mr. James Green lost his job with the city because his wife blamed Mr. Sermon and the way my dear father was treated after 18 years of faithful service.

I would have gone into the court house and made myself acquainted with Judge Montgomery. He must be a grand man. I always say amen when I read of his stand for honesty and justice only since my health broke I cry so easily and I wouldn't want that to happen.

Also Mrs. Faunce has an office there. She has something to do with the old folks at the county home. She got this job after her husband died and because she gave Sermon a chance to vent her rath on the L.D.S.

Mr. James Franks in chg of tax collectors office here often tells Fry how he would love to have him back and he says to me so often I can't see what could have happened Mr. Fry knows this work from A to Z and we do need him so much.

Now don't have to take my word alone. Mr. Spender Salisbury can tell you all about the money deal. He knew about it and really I wouldn't have believed Mrs. Faunce could have been so dishonest. Mr. Terhune, a friend of the Mayors received the telephone message in 1928 that we were "kniefing the ticket". I wasnt told of this message until this month. Mr. Terhune was given the job of collector of garbage.

Another worker over heard just part of this message. Mr. Terhune said my god Rodge thats a d-- lie these people are straight. She told Sermon he was responsible and her husband lost his job. Well I would truly like to see you and make your acquaintance if you ever come to K.C. I'd be pleased to arrange to see you and tell you all I know. Mr. Fry feels so happy he has the WPA work and its really out of politics. I'll give you a list of names for reference. Well I guess I've wearied you enough at this time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. M. Fry
404 North Willis

-6-

P.S. Please excuse mistakes. I used to write better but I'm too nervous to write at all. I wish I could come in to your office and talk to you instead.

Mr. Robert Hood 123 E. Pacific
Mr. James Frank Indep. Court House
Mr. E. E. Kirby " "
Mr. Henry Childs " "

Mr.	R. B. McGuire	Battery Block
Mr.	James Keir	Herald Office
Mr.	D. O. Cato	Police Dept.
Mr.	Robert Levacy	Light Office
Dr.	John R. Grew	First National Bank Bldg.
Mr.	E. C. Herrington	Harrington Bldg.
Mr.	Henry Stahl	815 West Maple
Mr.	Garland Tickmeyer	Auditorium Pastor Indep.
Mr.	John Sheeley	1624 W. Walnut Pastor at K.C. Central Church
Mr.	J. Stanley Kelley	

I can give you any amount of names but think this list enough I dont want to worry you with all this.

I think when Harry Truman realizes what he threw on the floor in 1931 was a petition of about 900 L.D.S. names well he just wont have a smell in let alone a look in.

Mrs. Fry