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Hot Springs National Park Arkansas

November 15, 1935

Hon. Lloyd Starks
Louisiana, Missouri

Dear Mr. Starks:

I received a letter today from my good friend E. N. Peterson, saying that Dr. John C. Whitsell and others had called on you and that you objected to the appointment of Dr. Whitsell for your campaign manager in St. Joseph and Northwest Missouri.

I am very sorry that this came up, as I take the entire responsibility for Dr. Whitsell. I have known the Doctor for the past thirty-five years. He not only was a good mayor for our city, but honest and conducted the city affairs in good shape. His democracy has never been questioned, always in line for the Democratic Party, doing his bit.

However, Major Starks, I would not have asked Mr. Pendergast to have had the appointment of manager for the Doctor if I had not thought it was the best interest for you and for Tom Pendergast.

As you recollect, you called at my home at 50 East Valley Street last winter. You urged me to be for you. You also urged me to consult Mr. Pendergast in your behalf. I did this, not only one time, but many times and finally he advised me that he was ready to be for you, and I am a follower of T. J. Pendergast.

I picked the manager for Mr. Pendergast in 1932 for Francis Wilson, and we carried Northwest Missouri by a good majority over the entire corporate and city service interest. When Senator Truman ran for the Senate, I picked the man again and Mr. Pendergast told me, "Starmer, if you carry Buchanan County by one vote I'll be the happiest man in the world." We succeeded with the help of my boys and carried the county by 2,000 votes. I feel certain that Dr. Whitsell would not want to impose upon you, and as soon as I get home if you are still in same frame of mind, I will ask him to step down

Now, Mr. Starks, I know there would be objections

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to anything that I might do, by the office generals that sit on easy chairs in their offices and do nothing.

Furthermore, Major, I have consulted practically the entire Committee men and Committee women of our County, and out of forty-four, thirty-six of them are pledged to you. Furthermore, I have consulted the Irish-Catholic friends of mine and the Polish hoys and so far they are all for you.

To give you an idea who I am, I was born and raised in Buchanan County, spent ten years in Oklahoma and the western part of the U. S., have been back in St. Joseph for

the past thirty-five years. As per the Starmers' and Blakleys' war records, my forefathers fought in the Revolution, the. Blakleys and Starmers were with Jackson in Hew Orleans and helped whip the British. I had five uncles in the Southern Confederacy with that great General Price, and only a few miles from where I sit today, I lost two uncles at the battle of Helena, Arkansas. When the late War with Germany commenced, every Starmer of the name enlisted and did not wait to be draft. I lost one of my dear sons in that struggle.

I do not propose to be looked upon like some of those office generals in St. Joseph places me. The time has come for me to act and I am going to do it.

When the soldier boys returned to St. Joseph, they organized the Ross-Dugger Post. Myself and Mr. Frank Vancil, a business man of South St. Joseph, raised \$5,500 for that Post, I myself individually giving \$250. So, you can see that I have always had a warm spot for soldier boys.

Now, Major, I will close for this time. I expect to be in Hot Springs until about December 1st. I will then be at my home at 50 East Valley Street or my office at 6212 King Hill Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Hoping that you will go over this matter carefully,

I am

Yours,

G. G. Starmer

GGs:ER