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15 MALIBU BEACH
ZEBRA, MO.

June 16, 1935.

Dear Major Stark:

The Central Missouri Press Association meeting, of which I told you in Jefferson City yesterday, will be held at Eldon next Saturday, June 22. There will be a business session in the morning, followed by luncheon as guests of the Eldon Chamber of Commerce, after which the editors will be taken for a trip on the Lake of the Ozarks, followed by a barbecue and barn dance at Arrowhead Beach. I have written Marvin H. Crawford, editor of the Versailles Democrat, who is president of the Association, suggesting that he send you a special invitation to attend the meeting, but whether he does so or not, it will be all right for you to attend. W.L. Bouchard, of Flat River, Senator Frank P. Briggs of Macon, Fred M. Harrison of Gallatin and others you know will be there. Also Bob Hill of Columbia.

We can hold our conference at Jefferson City Saturday morning, as planned, then drive to Eldon for the luncheon and subsequent proceedings and to Malibu Beach for the night. Bring Mrs. Stark along.

Other press meetings, which you can put on your calendar are:

Ozark Press Association, at Willow Springs, Sept. 22. Barney Finn, of the Sarcoxie Record, is president of this body.

Missouri Press Association, at Kansas City, Oct. 17-19, headquarters at Hotel President. Col. W.L. Bouchard, of Lead Belt News, president.

Ed Orr was here to-day and in going over the Boggs story again, I find I was wrong in one particular, namely, Boggs did not tell him Dr. Sullivan was still in the employ of the state, but did, in fact, say that Sullivan had been fired Jan. 1, 1934. You can change the letter to you, drafted at Jefferson City, omitting that part of the sentence which said

Boggs had conveyed the impression that Sullivan was still on the payroll. Otherwise it is o.k.

Another Columbia lawyer gone wrong. Ed says Boyle Clark, head of the firm of which Boggs is a member, told him he (Clark) did not believe you would be nominated. Clark has just returned from Washington, where he spent considerable time with Bennett Clark. Boyle is quite an admirer of Bennett, and thinks the latter is growing in popularity and influence. He said the newspapers had given an erroneous idea of the recent New York conference, which carried the inference that the next candidate for Governor would be named by Pendergast alone. The fact is, Boyle Clark said, Bennett has retained the absolute "veto" power on any man T.J.P. may choose, which means, of course, that the candidate must be satisfactory to Bennett. Boyle Clark seemed to think this means that Bennett will virtually name the man. I do not agree with that interpretation. What Bennett wants above all else is renomination in 1938, and with Pendergast's support on that point assured, I believe he will go along with the K.C. choice on governorship, provided it is someone not personally objectionable to him. However, the fact that Boyle Clark comes direct from Washington and asserts positively that "the 1936 candidate for governor was not named among the

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four (Stark, Cross, McKittrick and Nee) mentioned in the New York dispatches" might have some significance, if we knew where he obtained his information. My guess is the four named were satisfactory to the conference, or their names would not have been given out. Ed tried to draw Boyle Clark out by mentioning other names, such as Franklin Miller and Frank Harris, but received only non-committal answers. Boyle Clark, by the way, has not the personal antagonism toward Harris that Hulen and Boggs have.

While on the Boone county situation, I asked Ed if there was not some effective leadership there, which we could tie to, in case the old wheelhorses like Ned Boggs, Hulen and Cave were unavailable. He said the Young Democratic organization had made little progress there and Sid Rollins was hardly big enough to lead a successful movement. The Am. Legion has a strong organization in the county, however, and in the city election in Columbia recently they were able to elect as Chief of Police a man named

Orville Pollock, who is regarded as a comer. He might be a good man to tie to, if it becomes necessary to form a new organization. In a fight with McKittrick, for instance, this younger crowd might be organized and give the old bosses a trimming. Ed will be with us right down the line, but he expects to be a candidate for prosecuting attorney next year (having missed the nomination by a mere whisper last time) so will have to sing low until after the primary. He can do us a lot of good in a quiet way, however.

Boyle Clark is a high-brow lawyer, not especially skilled in reading the political skies, so we do not need to attach undue importance to his prognostications. However, I thought you would be interested in what he said and hence am passing it on for your information. Also, in lining up T.J.P. and Truman, we must not let Bennett get away from us with his "veto" power, Cod knows, old Champ would come to life and raise merry hell if he thought Bennett was throwing obstacles in the way of any member of the Stark family.

I will meet you at the Missouri hotel in Jefferson City next Saturday at 9 A.m unless otherwise instructed. Dont suppose it will be necessary for Andy to come to the editors' meeting, as it will be a purely social affair.

Sincerely Yours,
W. M. Ledbetter