

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 5th, 1935.

Hon. Lloyd Stark,
Louisiana, Mo.

Dear Major:

I have just five minutes ago returned from the Ready-Mix plant. I have saved Judge Ross until the last minute, knowing T.J., will be home about Tuesday, possibly this coming Saturday.

I know Judge Ross is one of the very last men T.J., consults with when making an important political move. I know his weight is mighty and nearly final.

I simply know he will either listen, or, he will say I don't want to discuss politics. I knew and know him so well, I went at him from the personal friendship side. I told him you and I were personal and good friends, that I could have you come to them and talk to them on common ground, and any promises you made, I knew you would keep them; that any agreements you made would be sacred with you. Or, you would not make any, then lay down on your word. I felt you were the type of gentleman who would look further than the Governorship, and was smart enough to know, young man that you are, you would want to keep the friendship of the Organization.

The Judge listened attentively. I told him I felt he could have a great influence with Mr. Pendergast. He told me I did the right thing boosting you. He knew you and you were a fine and educated gentleman, and I was doing the right thing. It was my duty to be loyal to a friendship, especially when the friendship needed my help.

I know the old Judge so well, I am convinced some others have been working on him. He seemed pleased, but he is an old fox. He will let you know his feelings, then keep himself foot-loose until the lineup is made. I feel very good over it.

Now what I am saying, and I hate to report it. I do not want to be quoted, but I am going to give you the lowdown. I talked to Jim Aylward out at Welch's court, in the presence of Gil Burke. He, of course has his man, and I am going to tell you right now who he is; Pros Cross. He started talking about turning the office over to Utilities and Bankers, that he thought I knew more about politics and had a higher respect for my ability, etc. I told Jim the same old story was spread about Gardner, but in the longrun, they had no high hat administration, nor was the state turned over to utilities, etc., and the day came when they pleaded and begged. Fred Gardner to pull them out of the fire. It was a hard task for them to go for Gardner from the outset. I also told him there was a lot of argument

against you, but the good arguments and the strength you were fast gathering- was evidence enough a lot of the sages at Washington from the state of Missouri, evidently was in the same kind of political boat as I— the Stark boat.

Jim said "how long have you known Stark?" I told him (lied) a number of years. "Well, if he should be the choice I hope he lives up to the confidences of his many friends'. that was Aylward. I don't know whether it is his way of really finding out things, or whether he is really against you. I know he would like to put over his own man.

I told him when we parted: "Jim, the boss has the last say. He said out at the track, 'Jim Aylward has a man named Cross, my nephew has a man named Nee; and I understand Shannon wants to run (before Shannon get sick and has stepped thinking such thoughts), you and some other friends have Stark. I'm going to go to Europe and spend a happy vacation. My mind is open, and they can fight it out. I'll have no candidate, but you can bet your bottom dollar they'll all get a fair shake, and I'll name the man in the final analysis.'" I wanted Jim to know I knew where his heart was, or had been.

He looked puzzled. "Well that right. No use in us falling out ever the thing. The boss will name him."

I really did not intend to tell you this, but with the thing getting short, I think the report will give you a chance to get people at Aylward and try and diallusion him about you. I think he has the fear you might gobble up the whole situation and disregard everybody once you get in there.

When I saw that attitude I told Jim, I believed your education and association with the world in general, your travels, your association with all classes, the farmer, the soldier, sailor, and your great worth in the world war, your culture, etc., would school you to know- if, and I told him, I believed from my personal observation, you really wanted to get places after the Governorship was thru, and I felt you would make us another fine and word keeping Governor.

He said, "you really think that. I think then if he is going to be ambitious, I know well enough he possibly will play a better game of ball."

It may have been Jim's way of putting in a feeler. I have been a long time friend of the Aylward boys, but Jimmy is uncanny, and he will shoot a lot of angles just to get down and see how sincere one is for this man or that man. It might be his way, as State Chairman, of getting "the pulse" of a candidate.

Well, he got mine. I hope he carries it right on into the Boss. I have been working

within and without for you. You are pretty well advertised, and you have a lot of the boys talking for you. We are, to my notion, a lot better advertised in the Organization. I have good friends.

I have shot the last shot, Judge Ross. I feel good about him. A lot of good work is going on about the centers I connected with. I did not pick up bums to do it, but good highclassed men. I knew I at least, inlisted them. The work is rolling.

T.J., will be home and I will be seeing him in the early morning hours, away from everyone. I knew him well enough, and just when to pop off to him. I'll soon be getting close to his thoughts and see what the situation is developing.

With kind regards, I am,

Your friend,

Hurst

P - S — Get in little closer touch with "Aylward. Get your out state friends working on him.