

TELEPHONE-LINN CREEK 1930

WILLIAM M. LEDBETTER
LAKEWOOD COTTAGE
15 MALIBU BEACH
ZEBRA, MO.

4 p.m Tuesday, Oct.8.1935.

Dear Major Stark:

Have Just returned from St. Louis, where we were called by personal business after spending Saturday and Sunday with Helen at Columbia. I find your letter of Oct. 6 awaiting me, and did not call up, as suggested, as I understand you are to be in Jefferson City for meeting and banquet of Democratic Women's clubs to-night.

I think Mrs. Powell is entitled to a vacation and believe she ought to take it right away, while we are waiting for the K.C. verdict. That is one reason why I do not think I ought to come to Louisiana this week. Another reason is that I am pretty well tired out myself. I do not suppose there is anything very important to be decided until we hear from Kansas City, and Mrs. Powell can send me any letters that she wants help on.

My suggestion of a two-days-per-week in Louisiana was intended to apply to the period when we begin organizing Stark-for-Governor clubs, which, of course, can not very well be started until you know definitely that you are going to run, and that, in turn, depends upon K.C. At any rate, you will not make any announcement until you hear from them. Of course I am ready to come to Louisiana, or start for Kansas City, on an hour's notice, whenever you may need me,

I suggest that we also leave next week open, as we will both be in K.C. for the Mo. Press Association meeting, and can very well hold our conference there, or en route there, and thus save some time. You can bring along any office problems on which I can be of help, or Mrs. Powell can send them to me direct. This will give her a ten-day rest, without interfering with the campaign.

If this arrangement is satisfactory to you, we can meet you in Jefferson City any time

Friday, Oct. 18, that is convenient for you, and drive on to Kansas City from there. I promised Mrs. L- some time ago to take her to the Press Association meeting and to the American Royal stock show, where the editors are to have a special reception Saturday, Oct. 19.

The plan for coming to Louisiana every Thursday, instead of Friday, is entirely satisfactory to me. By leaving here right after lunch, we can reach there in time to spend several hours with Mrs. Powell during the afternoon, and can then hold a night session with you and clean up everything needing attention the next morning. This will leave her a clear weekend and you can start on your campaign Friday afternoon. I wish there was a good hotel in Louisiana, so we would not have to bother Mrs. Stark by having to put us up so often. Perhaps there is a decent place nearby, or even a good boarding house where we could stay. I know what a nuisance it is to have people coming so often. Give me a suggestion.

To reiterate, subject to your approval, we will not come to Louisiana this week or next, unless an emergency should arise, so Mrs. Powell can take her vacation. We will hold our next week's conference in Kansas City, during the editors' convention, or en route there. Beginning

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Oct. 24 and each Thursday thereafter, we will come to Louisiana, unless instructed by you not to do so.

While in Columbia and St. Louis I heard quite a bit of gubernatorial gossip, interesting, but not especially important, which I will condense as follows, according to personalities involved:

BILL HIRTH—Is again itching to get into the race, but is being urged by his close friends not to do so. He will probably back some anti-Pendergast candidate, if he can find one.

RUBEY HULEN: Thinks Pendergast will get Stark into the race, with a promise or half-promise of support. Another strong candidate will then be induced to run, possibly

on an anti-Pendergast platform. With the field thus divided, the Kansas City crowd will bring out the man they really want, possibly Matt Murray or Pros Cross, and clean up. He says they did this in the U.S. Senatorial race, by bringing out Truman, after Milligan and Jack Cochran had filed. It must be remembered that Hulen is still violently anti-Stark and anti-Harris, and may still have some idea of being the Pendergast candidate himself. He called Ed over to his house Sunday morning to give him this dope, and asked particularly whether I was tied up with you for the campaign (of course Ed told him I was). He also remarked: "If I was in Stark's place I would not take any promise of K.C. support seriously unless it was personally endorsed by the old man and the two Jims; and the first thing I would try to get hold of would be the original photograph and all the plates of that picture showing Pendergast poking his finger into Stark's stomach." "So much for Rubey. I don't think he knows a thing, but is merely trying to show his importance and his deep knowledge of Missouri politics. (Phooey)

JOHN T. BARKER (Former Attorney-General and Pendergast attorney in criminal cases involving members of the organization, who was in Columbia Saturday for the football game—It looks as if Stark would get the K.C. support, and of course we will all be for him, if he does. Personally, I would much prefer Frank Harris, as we know him and he is a proven campaigner and vote getter. Furthermore, I believe Harris would do more for the State University and help us build up a football team here. (I will tell you more about this when I see you.) Stark is a multimillionaire. His firm is worth \$48,000,000 (sic) and Lloyd owns 30 per cent of the stock etc etc

DICK NACY (State Treasurer)—While in St. Louis attending the Am. Legion convention's said to have stated in a room full of Missouri delegates, including Jim Aylward and Young Jim P- that Pros Cross is slated to be Missouri's next governor. Apparently no one contradicted him.

IN ST. LOUIS*-There is little talk about the governorship, so far as I could judge in a short visit. Post-Dispatch is said to be digging into the alleged Jury fixing in the Mrs. Muench case. If they find anything, it may affect both Cross and Judge Tipton, who was very

active in framing up the defense. A lot of talk about it, anyhow.

Keep me posted.

Sincerely Yours,

W. W. Ledbetter

P.S. Some K.C. newspaper clippings enclosed. Note that about Dr. Christy.

If the Dr. runs for Lt. Gov., where does that leave Frank Harris?