

LLOYD L. CANTRELL
SURVEYOR OF NEWTON COUNTY
NEOSHO, MISSOURI

October 25, 1935.

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
Louisiana, Mo.

My Dear Sir:

I have deliberately delayed writing to you until I could get a fairly accurate slant on the attitude of the voters in Newton County. From the moment I received definite information that you were officially a candidate for Governor I have been 100% for you because of the following reasons: You are exceptionally well qualified for this tremendously responsible office. You have been a loyal Democrat worker harmonizing your efforts to the common good. You are a veteran.

In this paragraph I shall enumerate some facts about myself purely for the purpose of acquainting you with the background of dependability on what I shall tell you further in this letter. I am the County Surveyor, Newton County President of the Missouri Farmers Association, Service Officer for the local American Legion Post, and District Service Officer for the 15th District of this State which comprises Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barry, and Lawrence Counties. You understand that in no way do I inject partisan politics into official Legion activities but there is nothing to restrain anyone from discussing any subject in a personal manner.

You need not worry one moment about these people being with you for the nomination for Governor. I predict that you will receive at least 75% of the total Democrat vote cast in the Primary in these seven counties, regardless of who may be candidates. I understand that Bill Hirth, State President of the Missouri Farmers Association, is going

to announce for Governor but that need not cause you a moments worry because he cant handle his own organization consisting of a membership of around 24,000m members, fully half of whom are republicans, and his domineering way and impractical radical ideas coupled with his age and physical condition eliminates him in every way as a serious contender. There is no one else in the State who can break into your entrenchments seriously as the situation now stands if every other part of the State has the same caliber of Democrat leaders supporting you that this section does. In fact I believe that you could have won the nomination without the Kansas City support but that support virtually puts you in an impregnable position.

I am for the Kansas City organization 100% and I am for the St. Louis organization Just as strongly. The two working together in harmony should be an inspiration to every loyal Democrat to get into the harness and pull his part of the load.

[page 2]

You can rest assured that I shall do everything in my power to further advance your cause in this section of the State, Any suggestions or instructions from you will be obeyed in the old army disciplinary way by me and you can stake your future on loyalty because I don't know any better than to keep my promises and go all the way with my World War comrades.

I was deeply sorry I did not see you when you were here but I most certainly shall meet you the next time you are in Newton County if I have any advance information when you will be here. I shall consider it a privilege and a pleasure to introduce you to as many as possible of the Democrat leaders that you have not met yet.

Wishing you the fullest measure of success which you so richly deserve and again assuring you of the exceptionally bright prospects for you in Southwest Missouri, I am

Most cordially yours,
Lloyd L. Cantrell