

RICHARD PERRY SPENCER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR
FAYETTE, MO.

June 29th 1935.

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
1401 Georgia St.
Louisiana, Mo.

My dear Lloyd:-

After your trip to Arrow Rock your office sent out several letters to persons here who were not at the Arrow Rock meeting, telling them that you were glad to have met them at Arrow Rock. Among those receiving such a letter was Wirt Mitchell.

These personal letters have a great effect but you must be careful to have them so written that they will fit into the facts. The satisfaction which an ordinary citizen gets in a rural community from receiving such a letter is because he feels that you saw him and remembered him, but this kind of an error shows plainly that the letters are form letters. When you are out on these trips and have a man taking down names, let him jot down some fact in connection with each name so that when you write him a letter the letter will state the facts, otherwise the general effect may be the exact reverse of what you desire. You know, of course, that I write this in the friendliest spirit. I have had considerable experience in this kind of work, having conducted the correspondence in both the Gardner and Nelson campaigns.

I was over at Jefferson City Thursday. Means Ray was out of town. Howard Cook always speaks nicely of you but seems to feel that you will not get the nomination because he feels that you will not be able, at any time, to secure the support of the Kansas City organization. He is inclined to the opinion that Frank Harris may get that,

and thinks that Frank has a chance to get the nomination.

Of course this information must be treated as strictly confidential, because if these men find that I am telling you everything they say, I will be unable to get any further information.

Charles Lapier is non-committal. He offices with Means Ray. He thinks this fellow Gross, from Plattsburg, may get the support of the Pendergast organization because of his warm, personal friendship for Jim Allen. So far as I know, Gross has no general acquaintance throughout the State.

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I understand that a faction in St. Louis, friends of Igoe, and I think, of Mayor Dickmann, wish to throw their support to some candidate, other than the one supported by Pendergast.

I know that some feeling has developed between Igoe and Pendergast but to what extent this has developed I do not know. Scott Wilson expressed the opinion the other day that if St. Louis were backing a man and Kansas City a man, that the country, this time, would be in favor of the man that the St. Louis contingent were backing. I think he is correct about this, but, as you know, St. Louis would be divided. Who ever gets the support of one faction would probably not get the other.

I heard also in Jefferson City, that Bennett Clark was not enthusiastic about your candidacy, that some feeling had developed against you in Clark's mind because of his senatorial campaign, but the person telling me this admitted that he was not fully advised in the premises. I think that Clark and Pendergast will support the same candidate.

I give you this gossip to the end that you may inquire, find out what may be true, and make an effort to straighten out anything that may be going wrong.

My own opinion is that if you keep on conducting the kind of campaign that you are you will develop sufficient strength in the country to make Pendergast see the wisdom of supporting you, unless he has some deep-seated prejudice against you.

In the event, however, that you were unable finally to secure his support, I would want you to go on and make the campaign any how. Some claim that you would not do this but that, if you find that Pendergast will not support you, that you will withdraw.

While in St. Louis, recently, I saw Russell Dearmont. He said that he was out of politics. He said that you had not been down in his country, but that you had written a great many letters down there, that you were well liked, but he expressed no opinion as to who of the several mentioned would make the strongest candidate. He did say, however., that Dr. McGaugh of the Health Dept., was supporting Franklin Miller, of St. Louis, and that McGaugh stated that Pendergast looked with favorable eyes upon Miller's candidacy. Dearmont himself, however, attached little, if any, significance to McGaugh's statement.

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There is a high-class Jew living at Boonville, named Herman Zuzak, a good Democrat. He has some leisure and takes an interest in politics. I think Cochran carried that county through Zuzak's influence, if he did not he very nearly did so, and that too in spite of the fact that there is a State School located there. If you have not done so you might try to get him interested in your candidacy.

The Chairman of the Democratic County Committee of Cooper County, Dr. R. D. Evans, whose initials you will find in the Blue Book, is a man of comfortable circumstances and of very great influence, if he wishes to exert it. He has amassed a fortune in the practice of medicine and his clientele is devoted to him. He is very bitter against Governor Park. If you could get him interested in you, he would be a source of great assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

R. P. Spencer

[P.S. Judge Murphy was here this morning. I took him over to see J. R. De[?] but Jim was out of town. He says you were a staunch friend of the Catholics during the Ku Klux days. I told Jim what he said. Also Bob Watson.

*I was in Booneville Saturday afternoon and went up to see Roy Williams. He puts up the same talk about Frank Harris that Cook does. Says you cannot get Pendergast's support and if Harris cau[?] that you will withdraw in Harris' favor. I asked him if he had ever heard Pendergast say anything
(over)*

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against you, he said not Tom, but he had heard his nephew speak disparagingly of you.

Andy Wilcoxson of Lafayette feels that you are getting a long lead and that P. will come to you. He serves with Murphy on the Tax. Board.

My stenographer is on vacation. Hence this badly typed letter.

R.P.S.]