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REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI
NINTH DISTRICT

MEMBER
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 14, 1936

Honorable Lloyd C. Stark
Louisiana, Missouri

Dear Governor:

Have just had dinner with Hirth and find he proposes to make an active and aggressive campaign for the nomination. Had supposed he would be content with interviews to the newspapers from time to time but it is apparent he expects to stump the state and carry the war into Africa.

He tells me — rather pointedly — and with the evident intention of my passing the word along to you -- that he does not intend to indulge in personalities and expects to confine himself to the issues of the campaign — unless he is himself attacked on personal grounds, in which event he says he is ready to accept the challenge and make

it a dog-eat-dog rough and tumble fight.

He insists that you are vulnerable and mentions several angles from which he claims you can be attacked but says he does not propose to refer to them during the campaign unless he is compelled to do so in self defense. He takes the position that reference to "Pendergast and machine control" is not a personal issue and seems to be preparing to ring all the changes on that issue.

He explains his desire to a void personalities on the ground that after the primary is over he and his friends wish to be in position to go into the fall campaign and make as hard a fight for your election as they will make against your nomination in the primary.

He says the Republicans have caucused and will nominate Barrett — with the intention of electing him -- and that Barrett thinks he can win.

However, the consensus of opinion in the Missouri delegation here is that Saint Louis -- with a bitter fight for committeeman and committeewoman in every ward in the city — will give you a majority of not less than 100,000. Kansas City will do as well by you as it did for Truman. And your great strength out in the state will put you over by one of the heaviest majorities in the history of the

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Governorship, At the same time charges and counter-charges may be resorted to in the campaign which — however unfounded — might be remembered for a life time and I see no reason why the old political axiom "ignore your opponent" would not stand us in good stead.

Of course I would not presume to make any suggestion in the premises. Any man who has cinched the nomination for Governor of Missouri a year in advance of the primary is entirely out of my class. So I pass the information along to you for what it is

worth.

With best wishes and warmest regard,

Your friend,

Clarence Cannon

CC/ee