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January 24, 1936.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
1401 Georgia Street,
Louisiana, Missouri.

Dear Major:

After talking to you yesterday, I visited Mr. Ledbetter and spent an hour with him going over things in general. We also discussed the matter about which I talked to you over the long distance phone, and there is no doubt in our minds that the Republicans are going to try and seek some means of discrediting you with organized labor in Missouri.

Before I started to leave, Ledbetter stated that during the conference held the first of the week in his office, someone in the group had spoken up, saying that they had heard that my father was thinking about supporting Hirth for Governor. Of course I told Mr. Ledbetter there was absolutely nothing to it, and thought the matter was too ridiculous to even write you about. Ledbetter told me that he did not take the statement seriously in any way, but just made a mental note to ask me about it the next time he saw me.

However, I have been thinking about it and I am just wondering if there might be somebody in our group who doesn't particularly like my father, Wilbur, or me, and said

this in an endeavor to, in some way, alienate our friendship, because I know positively that whoever stated this told a damnable lie, or at least whoever mentioned it was purposely misinformed.

I have copies of letters which Dad wrote you and Mr. Pendergast on October 19th, which he sent me at that time, and undoubtedly you will find the original in your files.

I have many times heard Dad express his high regard and esteem for you, and know personally how happy he and Mother were when you were endorsed by the Pendergast organization. Dad told me, not over a week ago, that he had found absolutely no one in our county who was for Hirth, and that he planned on visiting several of the surrounding counties in the near future.

#2. Major Lloyd C. Stark.

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Furthermore, Hirth has been active around Jefferson City for the last twenty or more years and I know positively that Dad has never been for any bill, in any shape, form or fashion, that Hirth endorsed. You will remember that Hirth has always had fellows like Bales, of Shannon, and Armstrong, of Pulaski, associated with him. This group has always been active against my father and his friends.

Down deep in my heart I feel sure that when this matter was mentioned you probably did not even give it a thought. However, I feel that I should write you this note so that you will be on your guard against people who have nothing more to do than to peddle lies and try to break up friendships.

Jim Aylward and Judge Ridge came to my office Tuesday afternoon, about four o'clock. Later I took them out to Busch's Grove for dinner and we had a splendid evening discussing conditions over the state. I told them of my motion picture idea and they liked it very much. They want me to get up figures on what it might cost.

For the past two weeks I have been making a very extensive survey as to what the complexion of the next House of Representatives will be and, in checking up, I believe that the Democrats are sure to carry 70 seats; the Republicans 55; and the other 23 are doubtful. I took this matter up with Jim and he thinks that, after the primary, it will be a good idea to give some particular attention by the state committee to these 23 doubtful places.

Ann joins me in sending kindest personal regards to Kitty and yourself.

As ever,

Your friend,

Tony

Anthony A. Buford.

AAB:AC