

COPY

Jany. 24, 1936.

Major Stark Louisiana, Mo.

My dear Sir:

For the past several years I have been active in the various Democratic Clubs of this County, and at this time want to tell you that I am for you 100% and I stand ready and willing to do anything you ask of me in your coming campaign for the nomination for Governor.

There is a situation existing in this County that I think you should know about, and this thing caused the defeat of several Democrats here the last election and I believe the condition is gradually growing worse.

Here in Carroll County there is a sore spot in the party, a kind of a division. While not yet an open split, it is all set and ready for one. The Old Guard of Carrollton has always tried to dominate the whole county, and are accused of playing with the Republicans a little more than they should. And in the last county election, they were accused of doing things that lost the Democratic vote of Norborne and Bosworth, both strong Democratic towns, and caused the defeat of two or three men that could have been elected. The out county voters are not at all pleased with the county organization, and they especially think that we should have a more active Chairman, and at this time our Chairman is living in Kansas City, and is a man of very highest character and ability, and while he does not care to serve longer, he is keeping the office to keep out a fellow who is campaigning for the job, but who is not at all popular with either faction.

The Republicans have one of the best organizations in this county in the state. They have many men here who have held some very high offices in the state. They are men of

ability and can get plenty of campaign funds. And they are men of nerve when they go out to win an election. They just take off their coats, shed any semblance of conscience and go out and get votes.

There is quite a lot of the old guard in Carrollton, opposed to any one or anything proposed or indorsed by Mr. Pendergast. we, the Young Democrats, want to become affiliated with the Pendergast organization. We want his help and want his advice and if and when we can get his and his organization interested in this County we can put it on the winning side. This county on account of the way things are is unable to get any recognition. There are no state or federal appointments made here that are worth having.

I would suggest to you that you investigate this condition here closely. Now I am friendly with all factions and know the people and conditions of both sides and if you care to come into the

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County to see a few of the parties of both sides, I will gladly go with you or send you to the influential parties of each faction.

The men I mention as the old guard are most all men of Carrollton, and are up in years; have had their time as Leaders, hut still try to dominate the entire county. These men are a small bunch of professional men, business men and one or two editors. These men have just enough influence that while they cannot elect a candidate they can cause his defeat.

I wish you would acquaint Mr. Pendergast of this and in event he would like more proof of our need for him, and his organization, I would be glad to bring in a bunch of influential Democrats from over the county to see him anytime he would give us a hearing.

If we can heal up these sore spots and get the boys to cooperate and work, we can elect every Democrat candidate that runs in this county. On account of irregularities in the Court House now at Carrollton, not a Republican that is in office or who was influential in the past campaign can either run for office or influence others to vote unless these Democrats get up another fight and elect the candidates for them.

Again pledging you my support, and wishing you success in the coming campaign, I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ralph Gorman

Wakenda

Carroll Co., Mo.