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630 Fairview Avenue,
Webster Groves, Missouri,
May 12th 1936.

Major Lloyd Stark,
Louisiana,
Missouri.

Dear Major Stark:

I was in the vicinity of Louisiana about a week or so ago but, knowing that you were busy on the eve of the Joplin Convention, I tried to phone you, rather than call on you.

Since talking to you I have contacted Mr. Bouchard and offered him my services just as soon as I am relieved from my duties as State Supervisor of Illiteracy on the WPA educational project which will end June 1st. I have also been traveling around the State and of course can not help but hear various opinions and expressions.

First of all, your election seems pretty well conceded, even in the lands of the Philistines around Joplin, The President will be reelected also. St. Louis should go Democratic but the local friction still exists and it is doubted if more than 125,000 Democratic votes will be cast and Republicans hope to gather that much also. Merely as an humble well wisher on the side lines, I venture the wish that a stronger turn out be attempted.

St. Louis County looks bad -- due also to friction in the County Court. The County Highway Engineer, Crutzinger, seems to be the strongest single unit and he is favorable. Judge Tighe is all right -- Judge Thatcher leans a bit to the Republican member, Judge Wohlschlager, but can be counted upon to support you. All Democrats will line up but their internal strife has encouraged a normal Republican majority to come out of hiding.

That's bad!

Apropos of this condition, I have now gotten in close touch with about 1,500 adult negroes of St. Louis County and believe could assemble three or four hundred of them later on for a talk.

I have in mind a negro speaker, Reverend Collins, of Sikeston, who is a protege of Charlie Blanton. A group of us here in Webster can take care of his expenses and bring him here. Naturally we will have to have others on the platform and I'm just wondering whom we should select.

Collins, like myself, can make no political appearances before June 1st while we are on WPA pay. I'm afraid we can not get a crowd that would justify your presence, still, if you were already in the neighborhood it might be a good thing.

There is still time to consider all of this and we will be glad and ready to stand by.

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It seems to me that the WPA Educational Work in the State can be a good talking point for national subject matter. We have about 60,000 adults deeply interested in school work at an overhead of less than 1,200 paid teachers, supervisors and clerical force. Not only is the 60,000 figure significant of good will but the Educational Work, even by critics, is generally recognized as commendable.

Mr. Murray is now sold on this work and even the several of the district administrators who were lukewarm are impressed. I think it is good stuff at which we can "point with pride."

Possibly you are interested in two amusing rumors I picked up in the field. One is, that you were going to use a trailer and tour the State, thereby getting all the hotel men sore at you. The other is that your father in law is a Liberty Leaguer and would control

you— if not finance you,

I know these two terrible truths will startle and discourage you or possibly give you a grin.

The Pendergast threat of alledged domination does not seem to have much support. Nobody seems to care, much less believe, unless it is the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

J. H. Wolpers, Editor of the Daily American at Poplar Bluff, a member of the Board of Curators, appointed by Gov. Park, is a Republican but apparently esteems you personally and at least will do you no harm. He told me he had heard that Pendergast was about through in the State and was obliged to go to Europe because his life was in jeopardy, T. J. will doubtless get a smile out of this.

I don't know just why I write you all of this except to hope that an informal letter on the side from a mere well wisher might afford you a relaxation and a grin.

I understand that Mrs. Frank Hoyt, formerly of Elsberry, wrote you some nice things about me. Well--you know how women are, but frankly, I really do appreciate friendships like hers and treasure her esteem.

Oh yes—the Reserve Officers are meeting in Columbia May 15th and 16th. I wonder if you will happen to be near Columbia at that time?

The School of Mines situation is still in a mess. The Alumni are looking to you later on.

Shucks—I'll have to "sound off."

Regards,
John K. Walsh.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Aylward and am sending you a copy of a letter I am writing to him.