

COPY

January 10, 1935

My dear Governor:

In talking to Jack Cochran — who seems friendly to your interest, he said there was a rumor to the effect that you withdrew from the last race on condition that Pendergast support you in 1936, and if this were true, it would seriously militate against you, as no man could be elected "who is tied up with Pendergast."

He said that Dickman was froze to run but did not have a shadow of a chance as he had destroyed himself in distributing his patronage as Mayor. He did not know of anyone else so far mentioned who seemed to have any likelihood of developing into a formidable candidate. Also had a conversation with Duke Shoop, Washington Correspondent for the Kansas City Star, who said that no man from either Kansas City or St. Louis could be elected -- that the next Governor would come from the country -- and that Tom Pendergast, Guy Park, Bennett Clark, Bernard Dickman, and Bill Igoe could name him if they could get together. He said he did not know any man in the state who now had the call on the nomination — but that the matter would crystalize within the next six months. I had a long conversation with Bennett today and tried to draw him out but he was absolutely and determinely non-committal. I told him that of course he and I would naturally be for you in view of the fact that you were a Pike County man and your family had rendered such loyal and invaluable service to the Speaker and to him and to me, but he remained studiously non-committal - neither yea nor nay. You are no doubt in position to judge his attitude better than I am. He may be strong for you or he may be awaiting developments. But he was careful to give no indication whatever as to where he stood on the Governorship.

With kindest regards and best wishes, Your friend,
(signed) Clarence Cannon