

[page 1]

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Stark-for-Governor Organization

FINANCE COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2036 RAILWAY EXCHANGE BLDG.

TEL. CHESTNUT 2082

ST. LOUIS

March 13, 1936.

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
Louisiana, Missouri.

Dear Major Stark:

After receiving your message this morning I talked with Colonel Bouchard, and he is coming up about noon Saturday. During the afternoon we will probably meet with Messrs. Morrin, Bartley and Orrin Shaw for a discussion of the labor situation. We will recommend that the labor people who are favorable to your candidacy form a club similar to the Salesmen's Stark-for-Governor Club, electing their own officers and making their own rules, in fact, conducting their own campaign.

We will also suggest that they take in the labor people of Kansas City, St. Joseph and other centers as charter members, and have them represented on their official roster. I

imagine they will adopt a button or some other insignia, and if they go into the thing at all they will probably do it up right, as Mr. Morrin is a very energetic man and Bartley will stand by to see that everything possible is done. They tell me a similar club was formed in behalf of Barney Dickmann in 1933 and did very effective work.

I had a tip this week which may give the labor people something to work on later. It concerns a referendum applied to the full crew train law, passed by the General Assembly in 1913. Petitions were filed holding up this law until the November, 1914, election when the proposition was defeated by a vote of about two to one. The law was sponsored by the Railroads and was endorsed by practically all of the labor unions. The referendum was supposed to have been put on at the expense of the Railroads, and one of those active in circulating the petitions, according to my information, was Wm. Hirth. I know Hirth had very close connection with the Railroads at that time, and if we can verify the fact that he had anything whatever to do with this referendum, it will make a marvelous campaign issue at the proper time, and one that will kill him with the labor people. At that time Hirth had not blossomed out as a professional farmer, but was doing leg work for Sam Cook, Bill Phelps, the arch-lobbyist of the Railroads, and others.

Keep this under your hat as we will have to investigate and verify before we can even throw the labor people loose on it.

[page 2]

--2, Major Lloyd C. Stark

I was glad to hear of your satisfactory visit to Kansas City as it will help us formulate our plans with a good understanding of where we stand. Bouchard and I will talk over the matter of a woman vice-chairman or assistant manager, and will let you know the result of our conference before anything is done.

Enclosed find suggested copy for replies to Messrs Hudson and Alt. I do not like the idea of having you used as a tail for the Missouri Review kite, as I feel sure it will never get

very high in the air. Under the circumstances however, you cannot refuse to attend a meeting of some kind and at some time, but I would advise putting it off as long as possible.

I received a purported letter from T. J. Pendergast, similar to the one they sent you, in this morning's mail, so I presume they are just using the old man's stationery and his signature in an effort to build up the paper. I will not answer this letter.

The Frank Monroe letter, as per copy sent you, was written and mailed today.

Mr. Goggin said the printers were having some trouble with the poster and the first run was not very satisfactory, so they are trying some experiments in hopes of bringing out the portrait more distinctly. I am sending you, under separate cover one of the first proofs. He thinks the later run on cardboard will be much better. Mr. Goggin said the printing of this poster was one of the most difficult press jobs he ever had anything to do with. He is anxious to please you and if he does not get better results will make the cut over again with some changes. I told him it would probably be best to run off the first 5000, doing a little experimenting as he went along, and then we could decide what to do about a later run.

Steve Hunter was in today on his return from Washington, D. C. His name has been proposed as farmer member of the National Federal Reserve Bank Board, and he is much elated over it. It is a real big job, paying about \$20,000. I understand. Steve's name was presented by Bennett Clark with approval of the entire Missouri Delegation. He had a conference with the President, Secretary Wallace, Chairman Eccles of the Federal Reserve Board and Senator Carter Glass. The only thing against him was he was a little over the age limit. A man from St. Paul is his most serious competitor for the job. Thought you might be interested in knowing this.

If you come down tomorrow afternoon, you can get in touch with me through Miss Steffen who will be at the office in case I am somewhere else attending the labor

meeting.

[page 3]

---3

Major Lloyd C. Stark

W. T. Mayhall of the Pike County family and uncle of Bonham Mayhall of the Bowling Green Times, was in today. He seems to be doing some very effective work among his church friends and others in telling them what he knows of the Stark family background and refuting the claim that you would be under the Pendergast thumb, if elected. He was formerly pastor of one of the Christian churches there.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. LEDBETTER,

SECRETARY.

WML:B