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Jefferson City, Mo., April 22, 1936.

Hon. Lloyd Stark,  
Louisiana, Mo.

My dear Major:

I received your letter under personal cover. I thank you for it, but I want you to know I have covered that "dynamite" down there in Springfield. It has been smoothed out. After I saw what was done down there, rather than see a lot of scrapping and newspaper notoriety, I immediately contacted T.J., and he told me to go ahead and handle it and get away from that thing. I got Ed Vorhees, Assistant Director, Commodities, down here in the office. Told him what we were up against there, and he was very angry over that move. I told him to find a place for Edwards in another spot. He called up Edwards and had him come to Jeff City. And Edwards is to be taken care of otherwise. These are not altogether affairs of mine, but are all of our affairs. I simply am doing what I think should be done, and in the interest of harmony.

There is another very dangerous thing going on around this state, and something that should never have been started. Your popularity is being racketeered in this state, through mushroom "Stark Clubs", springing up all over the state. The attention of the democratic state finance committee should be contacted at once, and a statement issued about this "membership fee" racket that is being collected, and they should discredit these clubs, by stating they are all "phony" unless approved by the Committee, and the Committee says they are Ok., and gets the money for campaign purposes. You are the innocent victim of this racketeering, and it is going to do you a lot of harm if they continue, and the thing supinely allowed to go on as it is.

For your personal information, this young man Roger Taylor, is a part of this organizing of these clubs. He is desperately trying to recoup the three thousand dollars he put in the

Young Democratic Club's treasury for a blind, when he issued the statement previous to his recent race, about how much money he had for them in his treasury, and the money that was bounced on and kept by the Williams regime, and which is still in their treasury, where it rightfully belongs. This young man is going to get himself in a lot of trouble, I am afraid, but I have warned them to keep "shut up", what they have on him and not bring it out ahead of this campaign. He is going to organize Stark clubs in some of the counties, and for the sole purpose of collecting a few dollars to offset his great loss. I am quite sure he is being encouraged to get this money back some way. And it appears it is going to be done via the mushroom route.

I gave them another good licking up at StJoe the other night, when they tried to elect officers to obstruct Paul Williams. Williams has just been over to see me and showed me an amazing amount of irregularities in the previous administration, and informed me Taylor and his gang have stated they will come back thru the Kansas City young mens' Organization. I attached some letters to some friends there in K.C., and I don't think their racket will get in up there. I hand you herewith copy of a letter I wrote the Italian North-Side Club, about twenty thousand votes, and I am sure they will play no part in Mr. Taylor's ambitions up my way. I told Williams to go to K.C., and lay the cards on the table to that fellow Jim Pendergast, and tell Jim to keep his nose out of this thing and not get the Organization mixed up in this bunch; that we had to have harmony and this fighting and growling

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must stop; and stop! immediately. I had Mr. Kanan handle the situation up at StJoe, and he did a quick job of it, stopping a nasty affair that would have developed there. We simply must not have these things, and pressure on mushroom clubs must be put on immediately, and that is the job of the State Finance Committe, thru it's Chairman. You can't afford to be made a victim of these things, and that is exactly where you are going to wind up, and the brunt of this thing will sweep right back on you.

Arthur Nelson was right out in front in a big way, a thousand to one bet, and there was no stopping him, yet, they stopped him dead cold, with thousands of headaches the next day or so, all over the state. And this campaign can't afford to have these nasty little illegal, self-racketeering clubs, in the name of Stark, springing up in every turn of a road. This should be stopped, and the decent and quick way to have a foot set down on it, is thru the channel I say, which is the only channel it should come thru, in a dignified newspaper statement by the Committee's Chairman. I simply can't understand why Jim Aylward does not see this, and I am sure he does. And I am sure your managers see it.

You don't have to make any blaring campaign, but a dignified campaign, avoiding all danger spots and dangerous issues. You simply can sit back quietly, and see which way the republican wind is going to set their sails, and that will give you your "readings".

Their Campaign, as heretofore stated, is right where I told you. And it is right there a political Waterloo is going to be fought, they stand or fall in StLouis. Plenty of buying out and trading is going to be done there, and Kansas City is simply going to have to work, stripped to the waist. Now mark this and watch this. They figure a national phenomena, and Landon the Moses, will put them over with the out-state vote, providing they can hold StLouis a balance wheel against us in K.C. Roosevelt is fast gaining strength, but once Landon is nominated, then will be the real reaction of what strength or campaign, from a national standpoint, this thing will turn out. National affairs are "screwy" and you can't judge them by local or municipal elections. I hope we get completely out in front, and your popularity must not be endangered thru a lot of "punks", who don't even know what a ballot box is constructed for, just in there to pick up easy dough at your expense; and that is exactly what they are doing to you in these mushroom affairs, that should be "called" at once; and none too soon.

This is possibly, the last I will say. I have done a pretty fair job, and I am giving you exactly the ideas of Tom Pendergast in this letter. I know what he thinks, and I do a lot of thinking for him.

In conclusion, as I said at the table in K.C., the guns must be kept firing until the last vestige of opposition is swept beneath the waves.

I have no animosity against any human, but I am for you first, last and all the time, and I know the heart of the dear Colonel is wrapped up in your selection, and I know we will do a grand job and keep on going up the road to better things, and that is the reason I see these danger spots; spots I

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---3 have seen winked at before, then turn out to be the running sores- no healing could stop.

These racket clubs must be stopped.

With every kind wish to you, Mrs. Stark and your Nursery personnel, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Jimmy Hurst