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Cain's Thomas Cat

JESSE M. CAIN, EDITOR

211 WEST OLIVE

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

JANUARY 27, 1936

Mr. Lloyd C. Stark,  
1401 Georgia Street,  
Louisiana, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to you in connection with your campaign for governor.

Now it so happens that Mr. Ben Harrison of this place is a very good friend of mine. He is a republican and I am a democrat, but this fact is no detriment to our friendship or loyalty to one another. He is also a good friend of Mr. Pendergast. They have friendly connections in various ways. Bob Lyon, Mr. Pendergast's general manager and Mr. Harrison are also good friends. They go to Florida every winter and spend some time there.

The newspapers here are planning a bitter fight against the Pendergast organization and the democratic candidates. They have a circulation of 45,000 and can do a lot of damage. This can be eased up on you in particular if you would have Mr. Pendergast see or write to Mr. Harrison and have him talk to Mr. Bixby concerning this matter. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Bixby hob-nob together and are friendly in a business way. Mr. Harrison owns a chain of Food Palaces here and is one of Mr. Bixby's biggest

advertisers. The people of Springfield and the surrounding territory, both democrats and republicans, hold Mr. Harrison in the highest esteem, which fact you can judge from the clippings which I am enclosing. I am sure that he would want no compensation for this favor as he makes plenty of money and would be glad to do this as a friendly act in behalf of his friends.

I don't want you to think that I am trying to tell you how to run your campaign, but am offering this only as a friendly suggestion, and would ask that you treat this confidentially. I am sure you would realize considerable benefit if you would do this.

Wishing you the best of luck, I am,  
Very truly yours,  
Jesse M. Cain

Springfield Leader & Press, 12-24-1935

And if anybody should still be unprovided for—this is his invitation to one of Ben Harrison's parties. At the Salvation Army, he is giving a turkey-goose-and-chicken dinner for every homeless man, woman or child in Springfield. Police officers will direct any transients or wanderers there; and anybody with no place else to go is invited. Mr. Harrison also will give a dinner for about 500 negroes at Lincoln school at noon. And he has sent the provisions for Christmas dinners to the Women's Welfare home, and to the Blind Kraft shop at 640 East Brower, where all the blind are invited to come.