

COPY

March 16, 1936

Honorable Claude L. Lambert
4303 Troost Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Claude:

I am in receipt of your letter March 14th. I have been away from home for a month and of course have been entirely out of touch with the campaign that is going on.

As stated to you before, I appreciate your friendship, but have been associated with Major Lloyd Stark a long while, in the road program of the State. He gave me much valuable assistance and support during my administration as chairman of the State Highway Commission. I found him to be a very strong character, and while he might have secured the support of Mr. Pendergast, I am rather of the opinion Mr. Pendergast saw his strength and came to him. I cannot support any statement that Lloyd Stark will be a rubber stamp to Tom Pendergast. Lloyd Stark is not that type of a man.

I do hope that you will understand my position. I am not a politician and am not making a fight for any one individual, but there are times when men form associations and friendships that mean more than political ties and this is the case with me and Major Stark. I do not know that he will be nominated. The opposition against him may be greater than I suspect. It would really be too bad if a good man, like you or Major Stark, should receive the support of some politician who is outstanding, and lose the nomination because of this support. You are all, as I see it, seeking to get all the support that you can in the rural sections, as well as the urban, and I think it would be very unfair if some organization in St. Louis would swing to you to say that you were dominated by that organization.

I have never had an opportunity to meet Mr. Pendergast. During my administration of the Highway Department I was never approached by him, or any of his friends, with any requests or demands for jobs or special work. Mr. Matthew S. Murray, head of the Department of Public Works of Kansas City and now the State WPA Administrator, is a personal friend of mine, came from Sikeston, worked with me on the Highway Department, and I personally recommended him to Mr. McElroy for the work in which he is now engaged. I believe Matt Murray to be a very efficient administrator; he did his work well in Kansas City. I do know that Pendergast did not have anything to do with my recommendation of Mr. Murray to Mr. McElroy, and in all my contact with Mr. Murray and Mr. McElroy, there has never been a request made that was not backed by facts and figures, and I have always received splendid support in my undertakings, from these gentlemen.

Please pardon the length of this letter. I am endeavoring to set out why I am so close to Major Stark and trying to refute, from my own experience, any suggestion of Major Stark's connection with the Kansas City people, and also setting out my own experience in dealing with Kansas City men who happen to be in some of the high official positions of that city.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Chas. D. Matthews, Jr.

Copy to Major Lloyd C. Stark

Matthew S. Murray