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St. Louis September 26, 1935

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
1401 Georgia Street,
Louisiana, Mo.

My dear Major:

I greatly appreciate your letter of the 20th. The poll made by Col. Bouchard of the Lead Belt News, Flat River, is very interesting. It certainly looks like you are out in front so far that nobody will be able to catch you.

I met Doc Bryden of Bloomfield here today. Have known him several years. I think I met him when he held a clerkship at Democratic headquarters here in 1916. He is now an agent for the Post-Dispatch and travels in southern Missouri and Illinois. He expressed himself as believing you had a walkover. He told me that he talked here Wednesday with John Taylor of Keytesville, who has been talking of running for Governor. He told me that his conversation with Taylor led him to believe that Taylor will not run unless he can be assured of the backing of Pendergast. "I really think," said Bryden, "that Taylor will finally conclude to make the race for Attorney General against McKittrick, who seems to have gotten in bad over the sales tax," etc.

A former Republican state senator told me a pretty good story the other day. It is this: "Do you know that Tom Pendergast is trying to get control of the state Republican organization in the same way that he controls the Republican organization at Kansas City. I do not think there is any doubt that he is supplying money to Bill Sacks of St. Louis for this purpose.

"When the Republican State Committee recently met at Columbia to elect a successor to the late Dr. Clements, National Committeeman, Sacks provided a train of Pullman cars with free food and drinks to all who would accept his invitation to go to Columbia to the meeting. A great many refused his invitation. Before the time of this meeting Sacks was known to be using his utmost powers in keeping the St. Louis delegation divided between a half dozen candidates, hoping to get them to at last agree on him as a compromise candidate. His plan didn't work, so Curtis was elected.

We know that Sacks has no money of his own. He was never known to spend any of his own money in politics if he had it, either.

"You know that during the administrations of Hyde, Baker and Caulfield Pendergast perfected his Kansas City machine. It was through them that the Republican party in Kansas City became nothing more or less than a Pendergast setup, the same as the Democratic party there. I am told

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that Caulfield in particular played hall right along with Pendergast.

"I have a close relative who is a member of the Republican Committee. This member declined to join Sacks "party" to Columbia and did everything possible to keep others from going with him. His scheme fell through with Curtis' election."

On Tuesday I related the gist of the above conversation to Homer Bassford, one of our feature writers. He answered that there might be something to the story, then told me that on Tuesday an invitation was passed along to many of the Republican faithful to a gathering in Sacks' Title Guaranty Building, Seventh and Chestnut streets, to meet Hamilton Fish of New York, a potential candidate for President. Bassford went as a newsman. He told me that he never saw a finer layout of food and copious quantities of wet goods. Sacks, however, he said, was not present, it being announced that he had been called to New York.

A week or so before this, too, Sacks promoted a banquet in honor of that sagacious statesman, the Hon. Bernarr Macfaden, famous for his doctrines on physical culture and as an editor and proprietor of physical culture magazines. Judged by the latter two incidents it is possible that Sacks is also trying to divide sentiment on presidential candidates.

I give you this information for what it may be worth. When one is a candidate for high office, as in your case, it is my opinion that it is advantageous to him to know what is being talked about in political circles. Sometimes it helps him to put two and two together. If I can be of any service don't fail to drop me a line to my home address - that being where I get my respectable mail, a reference that comes to me via my friend Floyd

C. Shoemaker of Columbia.

Very sincerely,

Jas C. Espy