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SALINE COUNTY
Stark-for-Governor Club
Marshall, Mo.

Office of the Secretary 74 1/2 North Jefferson

July 29, 1936

Major Lloyd C. Stark
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Major,

Well, the primary campaign is almost over and though we will have a decisive victory in Saline county, I am going to be somewhat disappointed in the results. Had Hirth been an outstanding man, I would feel gratified at the small number of votes he will get but to have a half baked Democrat of Republican leanings benefit by the dissention in our party, hurts.

We have several factors that are no fault of yours but are giving him some votes. First, the age old fight against the "Machine" is hurting in some places and the insinuation in the Kansas City Times that T.J. was going to swap off the national ticket for a state victory is being widely quoted and discussed and will hurt to the extent of a few votes.

Then the Modern Woodmen and some of the other Fraternal organizations are stirring up

the insurance business and because you won't go on record as getting rid of Emmett O'Malley, are trying to fight you but with little success in this county, except from the officers of the Lodges.

The M.F.A. membership is making a hard drive and there will be a larger number of them vote for Hirth than I anticipated. And each member that is for Hirth is really working. Incidentally, they are having a "big" Hirth picnic here tomorrow. I will try to get a report on it.

Also there are quite a number of the old K.K.K. scattered around and most of them are Modern Woodmen. They are fighting the K.C. organization because T.J. is a Catholic and, naturally, are fighting the organization ticket.

As I have said before, the majority of the Republicans who will go into our primary are voting for Hirth as they would rather have to contend with him this fall. However, we have our judges instructed to swear all Republicans that vote in the primary to support the ticket this fall.

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But there is no doubt of your carrying this county by a good big majority and there is going to be a terrible fight on after the primary. The so called Insurance scandal is going to be played up to the highest pitch and it will be a hard matter to overcome unless O'Malley announces that he will not be a candidate for reappointment or you can make a statement that will satisfy them that you intend to re-organize that department.

I think that we can count on about 80 percent of the Hirth vote in this county supporting you in the general election. However, that is questioned by some of our leaders, who place it at 50 percent. I have made it a point to have a good many of them asked the question and I think my prophesy will stand up.

I was very fortunate in getting Robert Hoy to speak for you each night. He really is getting

the job done and is making a good clean fight for you — with plenty of oratory, a good knowledge of the favorable points to bring out about you and a seeming knowledge of the temper of the crowd addressed. He asked the question last night, at my request, why Hirth was fighting you so hard on account of the support given you by the organization and yet was so enthusiastically for the late Senator Wilson who was also supported by them. I am anxious to hear the answer tonight, if any.

There is also considerable money showing up for Hirth but that doesn't help much in this county. The ones who take the money don't stand hitched and the fact that there is some money being spent gets to be common knowledge and results unfavorably.

Our only expense is for the sound truck and a few cars to bring in voters to the polls and we are taking care of that without trouble and the Club raised the money to take the Drum Corps to Fayette.

If you will let me know where to call the night of the primary I will phone you the results from here and I will be at the Democrat News office, phone 1000, if you want to get in touch with me that night and if I don't hear from you I will phone headquarters at Jefferson City when the returns come in from the county.

Pardon the long letter but I wanted you to know the situation here and I hope I can get to see you soon after the primary to discuss some things that need doing here.

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With best wishes for a large majority next Tuesday and best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. R. Conway