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FEDERAL WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

MATTHEW S. MURRAY  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR

July 30th, 1936.

Hon. Lloyd Stark,  
Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Major Stark:

Per your requests in StJoe, I wish to state I carried out all of them to the best of my ability for you. I did not contact Jim Pendergast, as I could not find him. It would take Sherlock Holmes to find that bird, once he gets away from 1908 Main Street. Then, too, I don't think it would have done any good. He is too dumb. I did contact Judge Ross about the matter. This argument will dwindle down to a whisper in a few weeks, and won't amount to a tinker's hurrah in the general election.

Don't go too much on old age pension figures this man Jamison is giving you. These old age extra employees are right out side my door here in the Legislative Library. I happen to know most of the girls. And no such animal exists. Figures are records. Further, Barrett is taking full credit for smoking up any abnormal action regarding old age pension speed. He claims, and one which old man Thompson stated to the newspapers the very next morning after Barrett burned him down, just how suddenly the figures and speed jumped up after the attack. Barrett came right back with a laugh and said "Thank God! I have at least done something for the old folks, I have them speeding the thing up and the old folks getting a belated attention" Sob and sympathy is what the old folks want right now, not figures. They have been choked up and are coughing on false promises and

figures all during the regime, to date, about ifs and ans.

I am handing you herewith a letter from Paul Williams. I went over to Columbia and the young democrats are smoking out those counties you did not get to visit and preaching the gospel of how you stand about fraternal insurance. They will give these counties all the publicity about your stand you wish.

In the general campaign, every vote old man Hirth says he will make at the expense of fraternal insurance and take over to the republican party, won't amount to a tinker's damn- so far as democrats are concerned. And any large vote he gets in this Primary, will be mostly republicans for a showing, and you never had this vote to start with— they are old line regular republicans, so don't get alarmed if you see any considerable figure in this fellow's favor. He is just earning his Liberty League check, and gets some extra subscriptions for his farm sheet. He is no serious opposition. Wednesday morning will prove that out.

I told you a year ago, StLouis would be the hot spot, and that is the very thing. Also, Charley Blanton and the southeast brothers aren't helping you any too much, yelping insurance in their small town sheets. They and their nepotism, aren't a yard wide in their wool.

But don't worry about my section of the country, the young democrats or what I can do. I have tried to do the right and square thing for you, and

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I will so continue right up to the finish. And you will find the Colonel and the old Life Guard up our way putting the day over to a glorious conclusion. Just get this in your pipe and don't let the flame die down, you are the next Governor of Missouri, irregardless.

And in conclusion, remember this, don't let any of the Board of Strategy get you too deeply concerned about Mr. Roosevelt and the national issues. You are more than doing your part in a national issue, on old-age, drought, etc. The happy thought you put across about drought, and one the Barretts and Hirths missed, is of national scope, and you have been quoted throughout the land on the stand, and, even before you are the nominee of your Party, have come to national attention thru this happy suggestion. And for your further consideration, I might add, thru official information I have, you have given Mr. Roosevelt a thought. He has instructed all WPA agencies to get busy in the drought areas to use the funds for the purpose you advocate.

This is a strange election. If anything is going to be of worry, it shall be StLouis. StLouis is a nasty and unappreciative spot. They are going to sell out, cut throats and swap each other off in the general election. It is a wide open sore. And as I told you months and months ago, the Old Guards (republicans) will spend a million dollars down there to defeat democratic purposes, and the weaklings of that section of the country, in and out of StLouis, will sell out. Some with the veiled excuse "O'Malley". This is a pigmy issue. I talked to a great number of people, my wife's family for instance, substantial and life-long fraternal insurance people and policy holders, and an old substantial German family, who state there is a lot of rotten grafting in these institutions. I talked to all the German people (a colony) down in the East Bottoms of K.C., where I have a lot of fine German friends, and you haven't lost a single vote from them thru fraternal letters.

If the bandwagon brothers, and the sectionally jealous brothers would stop their (I mean the Blantons and ilk of that kind) newspaper "heat", and devote the space to your campaign in a sincere fashion, and go on about their business of making friends, just as we are doing up home, I am sure there would be no reason for further alarm.

They worried you to death about StJoe, and I am happy to say, I never saw a more splendid and harmonious meeting, nor have I seen a better campaigner in action, than yourself.

Don't take Joe Shannon too seriously. Joe is sore at Aylward, because Aylward took Gil Bourke and put him out at the head of the old Welch faction in K.C. That is the part of Shannon's faction (Welch took away from Joe), when they broke. Joe thought it should have come back to his faction, after the death of Welch. He is a fine fellow, but chatters a great deal. I wish I had known he was there. I would have quickly made you realize just why he was disturbing you up there.

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Your article about fraternities in the StLouis paper, I have made it a point to see that it gets in the paper. I even had the young democratic paper held up until the article was checked and put in for you.

I had a long talk with Paul Williams and a few of his leaders, and you can rest assured the gin bottle, jazz bands and dances will be put in cold storage and they are going to get down to serious work. I have promised them I will advise and help them in every way, and I won't have a Board but handle this thing as I see thru the glass ball of human events, the trend as I have felt it all thru my system. I see you the next Governor, but don't let inexperienced advisors get you in any messes about the New Deal. I know what this thing will turn out, a cat-and-dog fight, and every man will have to fight, stripped to the waist, right up to the last moment of the campaign. I reiterate my statements of months and months ago, this is a fight to the finish in a strange year of the strangest politics you, myself or anyone else ever had anything to do with. And in conclusion, the policy of the American people is: "not to be satisfied", and you can only satisfy them with hard blows. I again say, closing this thing, our state ticket, first, last and all the way.

Very truly

Jas Hurst