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FOUNDED 1806

December 6, 1934

Mr. Lloyd C. Stark  
Louisiana, Missouri

Friend Stark:

I was in receipt a few days ago of a letter from Mr. Means Ray of Jefferson City, Missouri suggesting that we push your candidacy for Governor, etc., etc., etc.

Of course you know my position in the matter. I was for you before, if you had decided to get into the race which you were thinking of doing if Mr. Wilson did not run. I was also for you when the question came up for the state committee to appoint a candidate on Senator Wilson's death, and it was thought that your splendid action at that committee meeting deserved consideration and recognition at the hands of the party. There was no question in my mind at that meeting but what, if you did not secure the nomination, you

could at least come so very close to it that it may have caused dissatisfaction in our party in the selection as made.

In my conversation with you here, I took it that you had definitely made up your mind to be a candidate for Governor; but I did not have time to discuss with you as to how and what kind of help you wanted in this locality. My idea was in a quiet way to line up one or two men that I could count on in this county in each voting precinct and get them sold on you and not take it too fast. As my experience has been in some of these races that the candidate that goes too early sometimes lays himself open for a concentrated fight to be made on him by later candidates in the field, and his candidacy gets to be an old story before the primary. However, as there will be no state election between now and the one you will be a candidate for, I think if an organization is perfected in each county of one or two men backing it in a quiet way for the next six or eight months or a year, it would be more effective and lots less expensive than attempting to shoot the full load so early. Although I certainly don't want to wait so late as to let an organization to be made in the county against you. I have just gone through an experience of that kind, handling Truman's campaign here when the county was practically set up for Milligan with practically all the old time politicians back of it who figured on carrying the county by 1,500 to 3,000 votes; and Harry announcing as late as he did—only a couple of weeks before the end of the filing day—made it pretty hard to overcome the organization that had been made for Milligan.

We lost the county by 23 votes which was entirely satisfactory I think to Truman and I know it was to myself. We carried the county

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in the election by 1718 votes for him; and as unfortunately in this county, we have a great

many people who are prejudice against the Kansas City organization. I was satisfied with that majority in the county that cast its Republican votes for president for each election except two from 1900 on to the present time. An analysis of the voting here shows that after the primary is over, we have overcome the prejudice against the Kansas City organization in this county to the extent that there are only about 150 to 200 Democrats who will scratch the ticket that are carrying the Pendergast banner; and as I wrote Truman a few days ago, I believe that by the next election, we will overcome to a large extent that prejudice.

Your location and residence and the high standing of yourself and family in the state will relieve you to a large extent of any criticisms in the out state about being a Pendergast candidate with those people who are prejudiced. If, as I understand, you are to have the support and endorsement of the organization, I do not see how anyone can defeat you in your ambition. I want to do anything I can to help you and want to lay the wires here in a way that will fit in with your campaign plans over the state.

Let me know just about how much publicity you want given to your campaign here—to show a good deal of force behind it now or follow out the plan I had in my mind as outlined in the first part of this letter. I realize that you will be very busy, and I promise that I will not bother you with any letters of this length; but I would like to start on any plan that you may see fit to suggest. I think that certainly two years from now you'll be the successful candidate at the primary election, and it seems to me that if no mistakes are made that no one can have much hope of defeating you in the nomination; and if we can fortunately escape the filing of anyone with any degree of strength in the primary, it will make it so much less expensive and escape the bitterness that arises from a hard fought primary battle.

Let me hear from you in the near future. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I today wrote to Means Ray.

Very respectfully yours,

By  
Frank Monroe

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