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[*written in top margin* Original actually delivered by LCS.]

(Speech of Maj. Lloyd C. Stark, candidate for Democratic nomination for Governor, over radio station KSD, St. Louis—Post-Dispatch Building, 12th and Olive Streets—Monday evening, August 3, 1936, 8:45—9:00 p.m.)

My friends, we have come to the end of the primary campaign. It has been one of the warmest campaigns, from a temperature standpoint, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Notwithstanding the heat and the drouth, however, I come to you smiling and confident. During the last two months I have visited practically every county in the state, and I bring you a message of good cheer from the rural Democracy of Missouri.

The message is that we are all set for another great Democratic victory in the state and nation this year. There is no fear, no uncertainty among the rural Democrats. They are for Roosevelt [*text stricken through*] and they stand squarely upon the Democratic national platform adopted at Philadelphia last month. They are for Stark for Governor, too, as you will see when the returns come in to-morrow night!

Now, my friends, what are the issues of this campaign? Strictly speaking, there are no issues worthy to be dignified by that name, but only a lot of misrepresentations. Take the so-called fraternal insurance issue, for example. My position on that matter has been so grossly misrepresented that it has reacted upon those responsible for it and is now proving a boomerang [*text stricken through*]. Months ago I promised the representatives of the fraternal insurance societies a fair deal and that is what they are going to get, if I am elected Governor. What more could honest men desire?

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They have misrepresented my position in this fraternal insurance matter purposely, and it has been done for Republican purposes. It is Republican propoganda, pure and

simple. I am against tax for the fraternal insurance societies. I am willing to do everything in my power, if elected governor, to aid these societies and their members. Simply Because I would not promise a group of Republican politicians that I would let them dictate to me whom I would appoint as insurance superintendent, they say I am against fraternal policyholders. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is, they are not interested in members of these societies as much as they are in helping the Republican cause, and that is all there is to that issue.

Then there is the so-called issue of bossism. That is an old issue in this state and it is getting pretty threadbare. It was fought out four years ago, and again two years ago, and the people are getting a little tired [*text stricken through*], because they know it is only a false-face behind which a lot of selfish politicians with an itch for office are hiding their real purposes.

In my opening speech, made at Fayette on May 20, I said: "I have not made a promise or a pledge to any man or group of men except that I will give everyone and every section a fair deal. That is the only promise I have ever made, and that promise my friends I will keep. I appreciate the splendid support given my candidacy throughout the state. I do here and now pledge to you and the people of Missouri that I will give you a business-like, honest and economical administration of the state's affairs, without fear or favor, and I assure you that I am not tied to any Poli organization or group or faction, and that I will give to all the same fair deal."

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That, my friends, is my platform, and those who know me know that when I make statements like that I mean every word I say. My record as a business man, as a farmer, as a soldier and sailor in Uncle Sam's service, and as a citizen is worth more to me than any public office, and if I can not be Governor in fact, as well as in name, I do not wish to be Governor at all. [*text stricken through*]

Now as to old age pensions. That is one of the subjects close to my heart. Remember my friends - The Democratic party, both nationally and in Missouri, paid the first old age

pensions ever paid [*text stricken through*]. I do not hesitate to say that I believe the O Age Pen Act is the most wonderful piece of legislation that we have adopted in this generation. I am enthusiastically for it. I believe it is social legislation that transcends all other. !!!

I am reliably informed that on July 13 there were 16,103 names certified for payment to the state for old age pensions and that eleven days later, after the Fed. Funds were released - on July 24, that the number certified for payment had increased to 21,920. Certifications for payments are now coming in at the rate of 500 names a day. The old age pension problem is rapidly being solved and I am informed that we will have added 35,000 more to the old age pension rolls, making a total of nearly 55,000 within sixty days. By the first of October Missouri will be paying more people old age pensions than any state in the union, except California and Ohio.

Furthermore, I feel that the aged who apply for pensions are entitled to speedy action on their applications [*text stricken through*]. The cumbersome

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legally phrased questionnaires that are so perplexing to the old people who have to fill them out are now in the process of modification and simplification and are being shortened wherever possible.

I shall give my time and best efforts when elected Governor of Missouri to the cause of old age pensions.

Now a few words about myself. I know you will pardon my being just a little personal. I am a business man, one of the executive heads of the largest concerns of its kind in the world and most of my life has been spent in business pursuits. I own two farms and give them my personal supervision, so I know a great deal about the farmers' problems, from personal experience, and I am deeply concerned with finding a solution of those problems.

Ever since I was a small boy I have tried to do my duty to my country, my state and my people, and when the World War broke out, even though I was above the draft age

and for other reasons exempt from going to war - I still thought it my duty to go & I did go over there and fight for my country and for you my people, and I want you to know that when I left my wife and two little babies, and left my farms and Nursery business, and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, —when I saw the shore line of the United States fade into the mist, I didn't think I would ever see it again. Many of us didn't think we would come back. I thought it was my duty to go then; I think it is just as much a man's duty to offer himself for the public office in time of peace, and that is the reason I'm here tonight to offer myself to you as your public servant, and to run for Governor, as it was for me to offer my life to Uncle Sam.

Eight years ago I was Chairman of the \$75,000,000 Road Bond [*text stricken through*] campaign, which has resulted in [*text stricken through*] completing our Great State Highway system, [*text stricken through*] Recognized as one of the finest in all the U.S.

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[*text stricken through*] It also first started the building of the farm-to-market roads in every county in the state of Missouri—and I am proud and happy to say that I was the sponsor of that farm-to-market section of the bond issue amendment adopted in 1928. I want to see the present highway system enlarged by the building of more roads wherever needed, and especially the building of more farm and country roads in every county and every community.

I have but a few minutes to talk of many things that are in my mind, such as the return of prosperity, which is reflected in the market reports you read about every day in your newspapers, and which is going to keep on getting bigger and more impressive, according to all of the economists and business experts, from Roger Babson down. I would also like to say something about our schools, which are doing better in Missouri under the present Democratic administration than ever before in their history, but time forbids.

I can not close, however, without some reference to a subject which is uppermost in St. Louis at the present time and that is the subject of honest elections. An honest ballot is the foundation stone of democratic government, and I want to go on record with the statement that if nominated and elected Governor, as I fully expect to be, I will see that every citizen of St. Louis, as well as every other community in the state, is given an honest ballot and a fair count, and that election frauds will be punished to the limit of the law. If a permanent registration system is the proper solution, then I am for it to the limit.

*[text stricken through]*

My friends I must now say Goodbye + If you desire an honest Business Administration I hope you will vote for Stark for Gov both tomorrow (and in November!)