

W L. BOUCHARD. FLAT RIVER GENERAL CHAIRMAN
W. M. LEDBETTER, CAMDEN COUNTY GENERAL SECRETARY
DAVIS BIGGS. ST. LOUIS TREASURER

STARK-FOR-GOVERNOR ORGANIZATION
STATE HEADQUARTERS
239 EAST HIGH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Osage Beach, Mo.
Aug. 17, 1936.

Dear Major Stark:

The newspaper boys at Jefferson City began calling me up early this morning, asking for a statement in reply to Jesse Barrett's latest (see clipping herewith).

I referred them to your general statement in favor of honest elections, contained in KSD broadcast the night before the election. At that time I had not seen the morning paper with Barrett's statement, but after reading the latter I can see no reason why you should get tangled up in the matter.

For you to join Barrett in demanding an investigation of the Kansas City or St. Louis registration by the Federal Government, when no specific frauds have been charged, only generalizations and partisan claims, would be ridiculous. If Jess thinks the registration is bogus and frauds are contemplated, ample remedy is offered by the state courts, which are open to him at all times.

In other words, he is Just making a play for the headlines and has nothing to lose. My advice is that you pay no attention to him, and if you make any reply to his letter, do so in general terms. The papers know you are out of the state and if they find they get a rise

out of you, they will be calling you up at all hours. The best reply is that you are on vacation and will take up these matters when you receive Mr. Barrett's letter etc etc That may seem like temporizing, but it is better than making some statement offhand, and possibly having to change it later.

I showed Bob Holliway the G.D. story and his advice was the same. Do not play the other fellow's game by falling for every trap he sets for you.

The reaction to Hirth's statement is not very strong. As the facts sink in, and he is found to have indorsed six out of seven Pendergast-supported candidates on the Dem. state ticket, I think its harmful effects, so far as you are concerned, will be nullified. That, together with his refusal to support Dearmont in 1932, shows that he really does not care anything about "destroying Pendergastism", and that his chief and only interest is to elect Barrett—and share the spoils.

Sincerely,

W. M. Ledbetter