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August 10, 1936.

Honorable Lloyd C. Stark,  
State Headquarters,  
239 High Street,  
Jefferson City, Missouri,

Dear Mr. Stark:

I was completely swept off of my feet by the contest between you and Hirth in this county in the primary election, as I felt sure you would carry Marion County by a decisive majority.

Early in the campaign I heard some talk to the effect that there might be considerable of the labor vote here cast against you. Later on I contacted a number of the heads of the various unions in an effort to ascertain the sentiment with reference to your candidacy among the laboring people, and was told that there was very little feeling against you among that class and they were satisfied that the heads of the unions would be able to control a large majority of the membership in your favor. As I told you I would do, I spent the larger portion of primary day in two of the voting precincts in the first ward, my ward, and encountered, to my surprise, quite a sentiment against us. While I succeeded in

changing the attitude of some of the laboring boys, I was unable to reach a great many of them. But the strongest sentiment I found against us came from the fraternal insurance policy holders and their sympathizers. I discovered early in the morning of primary day that a young man and his wife, who formerly lived here for a number of years, the husband now holding the position of district organizer for the Woodmen of the World in Arkansas, had been here for a week or ten days prior to the primary making a campaign against you among the fraternal insurance policy holders, and had worked up quite a strong sentiment against us among those people. Of course, I found considerable sentiment against you among the anti Pendergast crowd, but had more success in getting them in line with us than I had with the labor people and the fraternal insurance folks. It seemed that this situation and all of this sentiment was kept very quiet and was not fully discovered by your friends, and did not break loose, until primary day.

To my great surprise, Hirth carried this county by a small majority, which I regret exceedingly, but I feel sure we can and will get our Democrats together and carry the county by the usual majority at the November election.

You will recall that our young men Democrats organized a Stark- for-Governor club, of which I am an honorary member, early in the campaign, passing resolutions endorsing your candidacy. I told some of the members the day after the primary that they should have arranged an open meeting here and invited you to make an address, which I am sure would have helped you in your campaign.

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But I am sure the failure to arrange such a meeting was purely an oversight, due to the fact that the active members of the club, as well as most all of your active friends here, believed that there would be no question about your carrying this county.

I want to congratulate you on your decisive victory and hope to see you sometime

soon and have an opportunity to discuss with you in person the battle we must wage in the fall campaign.

With personal regards and every good wish for your ultimate success in November, I remain,

Sincerely your friend,

Ben E. Hulse

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