

[page 1]

The Franklin Life Insurance Company
Walker C. Johnson Representative
Alton, Missouri
Oct 4 1936

Hon Lloyd C Stark,
Louisiana, Mo.

Dear Sir: Several months ago I had letter from you in regard to your candidacy for Governor, and I gave you my honest opinion as to this part of State in regard to how people felt in regard to Pendergast endorsement, and you informed are that no organization could influence you in your actions as Gov if elected, which way be so, but making people see that is the next question as he only has around 125000 actual votes to offer, and St Louis and outstate has the balance of 610000 votes in State, and they very well know that he is boss of every job in every township in the State.

I know by experience he flung me off of job as WPA Supervisor by efforts of Chariman of Co. WJ Highfill and his bro in law O. C. Lurdley, but Highfill was beaten in Thayer Twp even though he passed out 2500 cards and tried every way he knew to be elected, also he and Lindley went to different Twps and got parties to run that would support him in case he ws nominated committeeman, but when he failed they dug up one of their bunch and put him in by unethical means, going so far as to get 4 proxies away from opponent who represented the majority of people, so if you and the State ticket is elected, they will be boss of jobs, even though they cant elect their men to office in county since people have waked up to why they want this job. People that have tried for jobs know you fellows won't recognize so that is why people resent them as they have it all

[page 2]

anyway, and will get what else comes up. It is rumored that you and Highfill & Lindley's wives are relatives, you being same name before they were married which whether true or not will hurt to beat everything, and they can see the jobs slipping from you to them, and from all the rest of the ticket from State officers to President, as they haven't been able to elect any of their candidates for past two elections, and the Demo ticket in the County is safe, but I sure think the rest of it is in danger, all on account of this unpopular bunch actions, as people know they want everything, and are going to have it.

You promised in your letter of inquiry to hunt me up when you came to Oregon County, but I am satisfied you were instructed different when you came but I can tell you I have been on winning side since 1930, and all I want and people that feel as I do, is a fair deal but we know we won't get it the way things stand now. They flung me over bolting in Co in 1934 a thing Dorris & Lurdley done in 1916 & 1920 to one another, but when I bolted Co Call & Dorris 1934 that was a lot worse even though I owed it to them in at least 4 different cases. I didn't commence at the head of ticket like some of them did in 1928 but it seems like them kind are unpopular.

It is also rumored they got many from you and Clyde Williams to use in Primary which makes it hard. I am giving you the State of affairs as I see it. If you think it worth investigating.

Yours truly,
Walker C Johnson
Alton MO

P.S. If any member of this bunch had, had as much done to them as I have they would give it to the press of the State, but I have kept still, but my friends know all about it and now it was done, and know what to expect if ticket is elected.