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HEADQUARTERS
DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE
PHONE 2474
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI
WILLIAM P. HARVEY, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

August 19, 1936

Major Lloyd C. Stark,
Box 463,
Woods Hole, Mass.

Dear Major Stark:—

I have your letter and was exceedingly pleased to hear from you and that you were taking a good rest. In regard to the platform outline and conference, it will be impossible for me to work on that. At Mr. Aylward's request, I recently drew up a draft of a platform for consideration of various leaders. If I personally acted on the matter, it might be viewed badly, as though I were presumptuous. I would suggest that you write Mr. Aylward about it and I shall be glad to help in any way.

There are only two issues that need any attention as far as I know, pensions and a possible permanent registration law. St. Louis Democrats approved the registration law yesterday and Mayor Dickmann appointed a committee to frame St. Louis' desires on it. I believe the Kansas City organization would be for it, though, please understand, I am not

speaking by the card on this.

We established pensions, or old age assistance, rather, in Missouri. Governor Park recently named a commission to survey the entire social advance horizon with the intent to approach old age assistance in the next legislature in the light of our experience, as well as that of other states, as garnered by the commission. We should have a fairly scientific basis for any legislation on this by the time legislation is needed. The Republicans can get little of a campaign bear story out of old age assistance in view of our earnest effort, in spite of how badly partisans handled the matter when it was enacted.

Please don't let Barrett bother you. We can handle him from this end in fine shape. Everybody knows he is making political medicine and nobody in particular gives a damn what he says or does. Hoover put G-men into the election in 1932 and they gave a clean report of having seen neither fraud nor intimidation. We had a committee of high Republicans sit in as watchers in the heavy Pendergast wards in 1930 at Mr. Pendergast's request.

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These Republicans reported they had never seen a more quiet election nor had they detected fraud of any kind. Their report was that those wards were Democratic because the Democratic workers knew everybody in their precincts and that they had cared for the physical needs of voters in the wards so often and so willingly that there seemed a bond of affection between. We have all the answers we need to Barrett and will shoot our firecrackers where they sound loudest.

His fulminations did not affect the primaries. Nor the assault on O'Malley. The fact is Hirth got from 70,000 to 190,000 Republican votes in that primary. One instance among many. At a practically German voting place, the precinct of Emma, in Lafayette county,

where 25 Democratic votes had been cast in 1932, Hirth got 119 votes. These votes and thousands of others were cast by Republicans in counties where their vote is worth nothing to the party merely to brace Barrett and give him ammunition for the campaign. Hirth's announcement that he will support all of the ticket but you borders on the ludicrous and has killed any weight he may have carried.

Just swim and rest and do this without a doubt in your mind that you will be elected by a majority that will surprise.

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Stark, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WM. P HARVEY

William P. Harvey

P. S. Am in the throes of getting out the campaign handbook and it is giving me all I can do in connection with endless demands on an unstaffed department.

H.