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From Democratic City Headquarters,  
10th & Locust Sts.

For Release to afternoon papers of Oct. 29, and thereafter,

Major and Mrs. Lloyd C. Stark, of Louisiana, Mo., were guests of honor at a luncheon given at Hotel Jefferson Thursday noon, by the Women's Division of the Democratic City Committee and the Democratic Women's Clubs of the city and county. Mrs. Ann Brady, Vice-Chairman of the Democratic City Committee presided, and Mayor Dickmann introduced Major Stark, the Democratic candidate for Governor, who spoke, in part as follows:

"I want to emphasize to you friends here, as I have to other audiences throughout the State, that if elected Governor next Tuesday - and it is a practically foregone conclusion that I will be shall go into office without having made a promise to any individual, group or organization, other than to give each and every one a fair deal. Why, I have not even told my personal secretary whether she is to have a job at Jefferson City or not, and she is as much in the dark about it as anybody.

"What brought about my nomination for Governor? The opposition has claimed the Kansas City organization did it and their chief stock-in-trade has been the charge that I am the "Prendergast candidate". That is just Republican propaganda, friends, and no sensible person will pay any attention to it. It is true I have the support of the Kansas City organization, of which Mr. Prendergast is the head. So have President Roosevelt and the other candidates on the Democratic state ticket. In fact, the President, on a recent visit to Kansas City, sent a personal message of sympathy to Mr. Prendergast who was in the hospital. Does that make President Roosevelt the "Prendergast candidate?"

"The fact of the matter is, my nomination was brought about

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by a movement which started in the rural districts, and which had gained unbeatable proportions before the city politicians took any serious notice of it whatever. The Kansas City organization decided to give me its support on October 16, 1935, and the St. Louis party leaders declared for me the following day, but 60 days before that, a careful poll of Democratic County Chairmen and Democratic newspaper editors revealed that I was the choice of 80 percent of the out-state or rural Democrats - and do not forget that nearly 60 percent of the Missouri Democratic vote comes from rural Missouri outside the large cities.

"Just to show you what the prevailing sentiment was at the time, I am going to quote from editorials which appeared in two St. Louis newspapers about the time of the Kansas City endorsement of my candidacy. I quote from the St. Louis Star-Times of Oct. 17, 1935:

"Thomas J. Pendergast would not be boss and political dictator of Kansas City if he could not tell ofhand which way the political winds are blowing. Republicans have made it plain that Pendergast's control of state government will be the chief issue in next year's governorship campaign, and that this same issue offers the best chance for a Republican comeback. In this dilemma Mr. Pendergast, with the acumen of a successful political boss, declares himself for the one governship aspirant - Major Lloyd C. Stark - against whom charges of Pendergast control are least likely to be made and can be most successfully denied.

"It did not take the shrewd Kansas City boss long to decide between possible loss of state control at Jefferson City, or helping a man to go in as governor whose personal record makes boss control unlikely

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[*text stricken through*] Pendergast was against Major Stark four years ago and dictated another selection . . . This year it is Boss Pendergast climbing on the bandwagon, rather than Major Stark soliciting and accepting Pendergast support. The promptness with which St. Louis leaders of opposing factions have ratified this choice confirms that view.

"Major Stark is unquestionably the Democratic party's best bet among all the

governance aspirants who have so far appeared. His record as citizen and business man, and as an artillery officer in the World War, uphold a belief that if he is nominated and elected Pendergast nor any one else can use him to the disadvantage of the state. Men trained in the traditions of the Annapolis Naval Academy, as he has been, who have left the service and renewed their obligations by going to the fighting front in a bloody war, are not likely to be forgetful of their oath as civil officers, of their duty to all the people as against the politicians and bosses. It is conceivable that Major Stark, simply on his qualifications as citizen and business man might have won the nomination without active Pendergast aid. That Pendergast volunteers to give this aid is no reflection on Major Stark. The Republicans will have to look long and go far to match this candidacy.

"On the same date, the St. Louis Post Dispatch said editorially. "It happens that Major Stark is a candidate of unusual promise. Worthy scion of a famous Missouri family, he is the head of one of the world's most celebrated nurseries; he was graduated with honors from the Naval Academy; his war record is one of distinction;

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he is a man of large affairs who has shown a deep interest in public service." [*text stricken through*]

"I do not quote these words in a self-laudatory spirit, friends, but only to remind you what the newspapers all over the State were saying in October 1935, I am the same Lloyd C. Stark I was at that time, and I say to you again that, if elected, I shall be your Governor in fact, as well as in name. St. Louis will get a fair deal from me, and you may dismiss the hob-goblin of Pendergastism. or threatened control of St. Louis by Kansas City, as merely a Republican Halloween myth. It simply isn't true, and it isn't going to happen.