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FIRST WARD

REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS

DR. RAY B. HORTON

COUNTY COMMITTEEMAN

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HOTEL SAVOY

June

Twenty-second

1934

Hon. Guy B. Park

Governor of Missouri

Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Governor Park:

Many friends of our late friend, Charley Becker, here in Kansas City requested him quite sometime before he passed away to ask you to remove Messrs. Orr and O'Donnell as the Republican members of the Election Board here in Kansas City. He did this after making a personal investigation and finding that Messrs. Orr and O'Donnell were not loyal to him and to his friends here in Kansas City. Mr. Becker before making this request of you discussed this matter fully with our friend, Mr. T. J. Pendergast. Mr. Pendergast assured Mr. Becker that he would join with him in requesting you to remove Messrs. Orr and O'Donnell as the Republican members of the Election Board.

It is with some hesitancy that I am writing you relative to this matter but as it is so important to me and my friends that we get the proper relief immediately I trust you will

give this matter every consideration.

Governor you know my friends are your friends and were your friends at the time of your election as Governor. Our friends feel that we are at a political crisis as we have no friendly party representation on the Election Board, therefore, we have no other recourse than to appeal to you and your high sense of justice. We feel, Governor, that as soon as you get the proper information as to the local Republican situation that you will immediately remedy the existing conditions.

My friends and I have no sympathy whatsoever for the attitude assumed by Messrs. Orr and O'Donnell for the Fusion movement in the late city campaign and now. Your friends in Kansas City know that I was responsible for placing a "straight Republican ticket" in the city primary campaign this spring against the Fusionists or National Youth Movement. My real friends were loyal in this fight to the core but I was sorry that we did not have the expected support of the Republican Election Commissioners. The Republican ticket made a reasonable showing under the circumstances but the results would have been much different if we could have had the support of the Republican Election Commissioners. I financed the

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Hon. G. B. P.

major part of the campaign for the straight Republican ticket and I gladly did so because I could not support a "bastard" political organization such as the Fusionists or National Youth Movement, therefore, you can readily understand my resentment when such people are shown any consideration by the Election Commissioners.

We have filed our candidates for the County Committee in the various wards and townships and we are most anxious to control the new County Committee but we do not believe that it is possible to win as we should with Messrs. Orr and O'Donnell remaining

as the Election Commissioners, as in many instances they are supporting candidates for the County Committee who are not our kind of people—unless there is a change made in the Republican members of the Election Board we are fearful that the "Kansas City Star Fusionists" may control our County Committee.

In a conference today noon with Mr. T. J. Pendergast, he said 'he was more worried over this matter than anything at the present time'. He said 'he knew the existing conditions confronting my friends', and furthermore he said 'he was especially anxious to see this change made as this was the last request Charley Becker made of you, also of him, before he passed away, and for this and other good reasons he hoped you could see your way clear to make an immediate change'.

I expect to be in Jefferson City Saturday morning, June 23rd, and Mr. Pendergast suggested that I go and see you and discuss the above matters in detail with you, therefore, I trust that it will be convenient for you to see me.

With warm personal regards and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely,
Ray B. Horton

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