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Member A.B.C.

THE CALL

SERVING THE 940,845 NEGROES IN THE SOUTHWEST

PRINCIPAL OFFICES

KANSAS CITY, MO.

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TULSA, OKLA.

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KANSAS CITY, Mo.

January 18, 1936

Hon. Guy B. Park

Governor State House

Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Sir:

I call your attention to our editorial about T. J. Pendergast on page fourteen (14) of the enclosed copy of THE CALL. The same article is published also in our out-state edition.

Yours truly,

C. A. Franklin, Editor,

THE CALL

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Not the Issue

William Hirth, candidate in the coming democratic primaries, raises the "boss" issue and assails T. J. Pendergast, presumably because Pendergast prefers Major Lloyd Stark for governor of Missouri. A poor argument at best. Start is what he is for ability and availability regardless of where he gets support.

The party boss is an American institution created by the people's leaving to others the charting of their political course, in the same way they make products and leave

them to brokers and jobbers to sell. Mr. Hirth's attack should be directed at persuading the people to do their own picking of candidates and public policies, and thereby make politicians unnecessary.

In the days when "Tom" Pendergast was a local figure only, the charge was made that he used politics to sell his concrete. THE CALL has his product in the foundation of its press. It was bought at the market price, without any pressure salesmanship whatever—good, honest merchandise, the best ever according to the contractor who did the job. If Pendergast were arbitrary and arrogant, or dumb and destructive, he would not have grown to the state and national figure he has become. There had to be something in the man to keep on accumulating confidence.

Two experiences of our own indicate it is understanding of men and sympathy with their struggles that make his party willing to follow Pendergast's leadership. Twice Negroes were threatened, once in their education and the other time in their employment. He listened to our story—and neither threat materialized. We found him anything but dominering. Yet we represented Negroes, a segment of the state's population small in number and influence. Hirth will be wise to make his race on his own worth.