

[page 1]

July 31, 1936

Mr. T. J. Pendergast

Waldorf Astoria

New York, New York

Dear Mr. Pendergast:

That you may know something of the political situation here as I view it, will make a few observations along that line. During the past week there appears to have been quite a growth in Hirth sentiment, especially in Audrain, Howard, Boone, and some of the Ozark counties south of Jefferson City. While there is no danger of Stark's defeat, I fear that Hirth will collect considerably more than 100,000 votes in the State. The fight Emmett O'Malley is making on the fraternal insurance companies is the principal reason for the change. The fraternal insurance companies have organized and are putting some money in the campaign against Stark.

Another unfortunate situation has arisen in St. Louis where the fight between Miller and Kinney got so hot that each side apparently attempted to pad the list from all vacant lots and buildings in their districts, and the result is that a recanvas of the lists is being made there, and several thousand will be stricken off. Waechter, as I feared, has taken chips in the game on the side of the Mayor and against Igoe and Miller, although I have warned him to keep his hands out of the local fight. St. Louis, however, will go almost solidly for Stark, as will Southeast Missouri, Birth's strength coming from Central and Southwest Missouri.

[page 2]

Mr. T. J. Pendergast

Page Two

7/31/1936

The Republicans are getting chesty, are organizing, and apparently somebody is supplying them with money. It is my opinion that we have a fight on our hands for this fall, but should win.

A letter from Ickes today says that he will not approve our State penitentiary contract. My impulse is to tell him to go to ----, but whether it is wise to do this is another question.

Today and yesterday have been delightful a cool, stiff, north breeze blowing, but for the last six weeks it has been hot almost beyond endurance. You should be glad you are not in Missouri. The corn crop is practically destroyed in most of the State and water is getting scarce.

I hope this finds you improved in health and that you will be back in Missouri to manage the November campaign.

With kindest personal regards for yourself, Mrs. Pendergast, and the children and grandchild, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.