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January 21, 1936.

Hon. David M. Proctor,  
Dierks Building.  
Kansas City,  
Missouri.

Dear Dave:

Thanks for yours of January 15, and for its forthrightness and friendship. You know that I treasure your friendship and want it always, and that you have mine in return.

Ray Barnett wrote me just as you have, and he too is my sincere friend. I would naturally desire and expect both of you to lean toward me in any campaign.

To put it as I understand you, there is no one you would ordinarily be more glad to support, but you cannot do so if the other crowd supports me. I conclude that would apply also to any other candidate, and so there is no one who could have at the same time the support of both groups in Kansas City. In other words, there is no candidate who can unite Kansas City. There being no one who can accomplish that task. It is futile to seek a man who can.

I know you are a man of outstanding character, ability and good political sense. It must therefore follow that you have reasoned this thing through and have decided that the differences in Kansas City are more important than harmony throughout the State. Too also know that harmony is probably a necessary condition of victory this fall — and in turn, that victory this fall is an indispensable prerequisite for cleaning up the conditions in Kansas City. Therefore, it must follow that the differences between the two groups in Kansas City are even more important than the clean-up of the conditions which all of us want to correct. I confess I can't see how that could possibly be true, but your judgement

is as good as mine and is based on closer observation.

As to my part in this situation, I am not as yet a candidate. At this moment I am making a systematic check throughout the State which will determine what I am going to do. If I find a majority think I should run, I shall do so, and if I find a majority think otherwise, I shall not. If I do run, therefore, it will be because I am convinced

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I would be a slacker not to do so, and I shall have to take as best I can the fact that I will not have you and Ray and my other close friends helping me.

So much for all that, but here then is something which becomes very important.

I intend, if Governor, to break Pendergastism to bits, and obliterate that obnoxious machine as completely as a Governor's powers will permit. I shall make this perfectly clear. I will come into Kansas City and state it from the platform and in the press. There is no other incentive of equal force for desiring to be Governor. If that conduct on my part results in my being supported by those who favor Pendergast, and opposed by those who oppose him, it will be Kansas City which has gone cuckoo and not me. On the contrary, if there are on our side any persons you accuse of party disloyalty, my attitude will prove an immediate test of those charges, for what I shall say will make it impossible for a Pendergast man to give me any further allegiance or even lip-service.

Therefore, I make of you and of Ray, and of my other real friends this personal and urgent request - It will be bad enough for you not to support me, but that is much better than having you oppose me. If you feel that you must oppose, then please, as my friend, see that no one in your group is permitted to misrepresent my position. That would be a fair request, even if we were disagreed about the paramount issue, for misrepresentation is always unjustified, but it is all the more a fair and proper request when you know, and

Ray Barnett knows, and my other friends know, that there is not a single man among you who has a greeter determination than I to see Pendergastism eradicated. So long as my attitude in that regard is not misstated, distorted or confused, I will try to be satisfied and will go forward without resentment or any other feeling which would in the least disturb our friendship.

Will you get that thought across to the rest?

With kindest personal regards to Dayse, Dave Junior and your good self.

Sincerely yours,

JCB/CH