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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

February 4, 1936.

Mr. Jesse W. Barrett,

506 Olive Street,

St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Jesse:

Your friend and ardent supporter John Gillis has been talking to me for some time about your becoming a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor. He also told me about some representations purporting to have come from the Union League of this city in regard to the candidacy of one of your opponents. I have investigated this matter and have positive assurance that the Union League has not endorsed the candidacy of any person and that no one has the right to speak for them on this subject. I personally know that several members of the League are favorable to you. I am not a member of the League but I am well acquainted with most of the members.

I have just had a talk over the telephone with Charles M. Blackmar. We expect to hold an informal meeting very soon to discuss politics. I believe it would be a good idea for you to write to Blackmar and to John P. Swift of this city.

A great many Republicans seem to think that our chance of winning the coming election in Missouri is hopeless. I do not so regard it. The following figures should fairly indicate the November vote. The total state vote should be approximately 1,600,000. Kansas City and Jackson County cast 300,000 votes. The Democratic machine will have a majority of approximately 100,000. St. Louis and St. Louis County should cast 600,000 votes. Normally there should be a Republican majority, but I am afraid the effective Democratic organization will hold that down to a negligible figure so, therefore, I am assuming that St. Louis and St. Louis County will about break even. We have now counted for 900,000 votes, leaving a balance of 700,000 outstate. I believe these votes will be honestly cast and that they will be divided according to the Literary Digest poll about 60-40. This would give a Republican majority outstate of 140,000 and a net Republican majority in the whole state of 40,000. A 40,000 majority of course is very close in an election involving 1,600,000 votes. I feel certain of the Kansas City vote and place great reliance on the Literary Digest Poll for outstate voting, but as to St. Louis it is merely a guess. You, of course, know more about your local situation than I do. However some of the professional Democratic politicians have told me confidentially that they might lose the national campaign, but expected to carry the state. In my opinion they intend to steal the state election.

Kansas City is a veritable cesspool in politics. At the present time it is probably the worse vice-ridden, politically corrupt city of its size in the United States. This is hard to believe

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Mr. Jesse W. Barrett, . . #2.

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but we who live here and know local conditions realize that it is true. One of the biggest questions in the coming campaign will be what are the Republicans going to do about it. A. Missouri Governor should know and understand Kansas City or he might make matters worse instead of better. Caulfield was a great disappointment end did more than

any other Republican Governor to put us in the condition that we are in today. He did not understand Kansas City and would pay no attention to those who had the best interest of the party and the city at heart. This octopus here works in devious and subtle ways. There are Republicans supporting it and others who are the unwitting tools of its diabolical manipulations.

Hyde was elected Governor on a campaign to clean up Kansas City. He did more in that respect than any other Governor that I know of. People outstate are fully conscious of our local situation and if they are given the opportunity will again rally to the support of a champion for better conditions in Kansas City. Therefore, if this matter is prominently stressed in the campaign it should overcome any appeal that the Democratic candidate might have on account of his being sympathetic with the farmers. The old Bourbon Democratic organization outstate is sick of this thing.

I hope you won't think that I have taken occasion to preach in this letter and will excuse its length, but the matter is of such vital importance to the party and to this city that I could not resist the temptation to express myself freely. I hope you will treat this letter as confidential. I will be glad to confer with you at your convenience.

With kindest regards, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,  
Harry A Bundoehn  
HAB:R