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April 15th, 1937.

Mr. Jesse W. Barrett,
506 Olive Street,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 13th. I have been planning on coming to St. Louis, but I just have not had the time. I am not only very much interested and very active in the federal investigations here, but I am terribly busy with the firemen's suit against the city for back pay.

Every other day minor Democratic workers and leaders come to my office with stories of frauds. In most instances I am able to take them over to the G-men to tell their stories. These constant convictions and indictments are having the effect of breaking down the moral of the organization. Democrats are squealing right and left to save their own necks. The machine is constantly promising them everything in the deck if they will stand

hitched. One prominent political leader in Kansas City called in all of his ward workers and told them that he had Caskie Collett fixed. Caskie Collet upset this man's apple cart by refusing to try any of these cases, as you know. They now claim they have Kimbrough Stone fixed, but the workers are beginning to doubt such promises. Consternation is running rife among members of the organization here as to just when they will be indicted. In the last ten days 13 more have been convicted, 8 in one case and 5 in another. Not a single defendant escaped.

Knowing my connection with the early investigation, you can imagine about how popular I am with certain leaders of the Democratic organization. However, this unpopularity is offset by the fact that I have had in my office in the last 2 or 3 weeks a great number of minor Democratic leaders who are respectable men who are giving assistance to the investigation, and the most important thing is that about 500 firemen, realizing that the machine for which they have worked for years is giving them a dirty deal, came and hired me to represent them in their demands against the city. I failed to get a writ of mandamus in the Supreme Court for them in a test case, but secured such a writ in the local court in the face of many statements by political

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leaders that no judge would issue such a writ. The gate is open now for some disclosures in the firemen's situation. Machine leaders have gone to various fire company headquarters in the last ten days and told them that if they would fire their lawyer and hire a man that Mr. McElroy liked, they could get about everything they asked for, that is provided they would stay in the organization. They men have refused.

About 3 weeks ago Mr. McElroy stated in the press that he had 25 signatures of firemen, and would have another 50 to 100 in a few days to petitions or statements that they endorsed McElroy's policy, would tear up their cards in the Firemen's Organization, and would refuse to make any demands for back pay. However, the City Manager did not give their names. As a matter of fact most of these names were pads on the firemen's

payroll, and were not actually firemen at all. He did secure the names of 18 firemen, who under the pressure of the moment signed the petition. All but 4 of those men have come back and want to get on the wagon with us.

McElroy is threatening again to fire 50 or 60 men. So far he hasn't done it, but I imagine he will. This may result in a lot of trouble in Kansas City, because the firemen and their families are on a tension, barely receiving enough to exist, and are bitter over their treatment.

One of the firemen's wives in a fit of anger went down the other day and horsewhipped the City Manager. Instead of hurting the firemen's cause, it appealed to the sense of humor of practically every Kansas Citian. Many prominent Democrats have made the statement to me that they were sorry that she did not give him a good licking while she was about it. Nobody seems to be outraged over the fact that she paid him thi3 unwelcome visit.

This will give you somewhat of a picture of what's going on in Kansas City, and why I have been so tied up.

I do want to come down to St. Louis and try to meet some Democrats down there that I think are opposed to the Pendergast regime From all over the state I get letters and calls showing that we are finally awakening the State of Missouri to the dangers of the Pendergast organization.

With my best personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,
F. E. WHITTEN

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