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October 23, 1937.

Hon. I. N. Watson,  
Dierks Building,  
Kansas City,  
Missouri.

Dear Mr. Watson:

From this distance it appears that the new Election Board in Kansas City is first-class. I know Shook and Ellis quite well and am confident of their integrity. The public records of the other two men would seem to indicate their own high standing. If it is really a high class board, then I think we have already accomplished a great deal of what was in our hearts. I have the belief that an honest system of elections in Kansas City would in itself shear Pendergast of most of his power and cost him most of his following. I am, therefore, very happy over the news, but I want to reserve final judgment until I have your own opinion as to the new appointees.

I am very hopeful that Kansas City will put up a strong fusion ticket this spring. I think it would be unwise for the Republicans to refuse to join in such a movement. Certainly, things look brighter now than they have for a long time and I believe a fusion ticket could win.

I enjoyed your letter of October 2nd and was very much interested in what you said about the prosecutions. Some of my friends listened to the argument in the Court of Appeals and came away with the feeling that the Government had all the better of the argument.

It seems to me one of our present tasks is to keep public attention riveted on the reappointment of Milligan. I have gotten the Post-Dispatch to write some good editorials

on that subject and will stand ready to do anything else you may suggest.

I do hope we can have a chance to talk at some length in the near future, but, meanwhile, I would like to know the reaction in Kansas City to the Governor's appointments.

I cannot tell you how much I admire you for the work you have been doing. If it were generally known, you would have the

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heartfelt gratitude of all good Missourians.

With best wishes and personal regards,

Cordially yours,

JWB/CH