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WATSON, ESS, GRONER, BARNETT & WHITTAKER
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March 12, 1938

Hon. Jesse W. Barrett,
506 Olive Street,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I have your letter of March 11 and I thank you very much for the attention you gave

my letter. I hope something may possibly come out of that investigation. We know that the Pendergast machine did import a lot of outside people into Kansas City for voting at the primary election. The only excuse for the enormous expense that machine incurred that day was to make a showing and dishearten the coalition forces. Our registration closed last Saturday at 1:00 P.M. and the primary election was last Tuesday. There was no chance to strike off the illegal votes prior to the primary. Yesterday's canvass in one precinct showed 48 illegal registrations, 24 of which the record shows were voted for the Pendergast ticket in the primary. That is the story all over the city. I think that we will be able to cut off 15 or 20 thousand illegal votes before election.

I feel confident that we can win this election if we exercise the proper diligence, but we have been severely handicapped by the fact that we could not get our business people to put up sufficient funds to conduct a proper campaign. The county committee had over \$6,000.00 left in the treasury from the 1936 campaign. Not one penny of that fund has been expended in uncovering the election frauds in Kansas City. Not one penny of that fund has been spent in aiding this campaign to defeat the Pendergast machine. You can readily see how disgusted a lot of Republicans have become by reason of such inaction.

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I have been devoting practically all my time for the last four months in trying to shape up forces here so as to have united opposition to the machine. We have a good coalition ticket. We are having no friction of any consequence between the independent forces and the present Republican organization. We have traitors in our Republican organization who are secretly aiding the Pendergast machine, but I believe the coalition ticket is going to win regardless of the treachery of a lot of our Republicans and the corruption of the Pendergast machine. This machine is one of the most corrupt organizations that has ever existed in this country or any other country. The leadership of

this organization does not seem to have any moral conscience whatever. Anything that will in any wise aid the ticket of the Pendergast organization meets with its approval, regardless of the moral issues involved. Kansas City is disgraced from one end of the United States to the other and beyond by reason of the rotten conditions existing here fostered and protected by the Pendergast organization. I think that the Republican National Committee and the State Committee ought to render some aid in this contest for a decent government. If this machine wins this spring election, the Republicans have no chance whatever for the fall election. People will be so disgusted that they will not put up any money or exert any effort to beat the machine in the fall election. Hence it is vitally important for the Republican National Committee and the State Committee to immediately render all the assistance possible in stamping out this machine. Anything you can do will be very much appreciated.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

I. N. Watson

INW:HWC