

March 10, 1938.

Mr. Frank R. Kent,
The Baltimore Sun,
Baltimore,
Maryland.

Dear Mr. Kent:

Your good letter of March 7th concerning the story that I was supporting Senator Clark is much appreciated. You said just what I thought and hoped you would. I venture the guess that the Washington correspondent of the Kansas City Star was not the seasoned and accurate Ted Alford, but Duke Shoup, an ardent Clarkite.

Thanks for your offer to make a correction. I had thought it better if nothing more were said about it, but I am beginning to hear from the story and may be forced to conclude that a correction is necessary. Please, therefore, give me a rain check for the time and let me have a while longer for considering it.

Just as background, in which you may find some interest. Clark has muffed a great opportunity. The Pendergast organization hates Clark. With Governor Stark, it has had almost an open break. It is also out of tune with Mayor Dickmann of St. Louis. Clark could have taken Stark and Dickmann with him and come out in an open challenge to Pendergastism, which, in turn, would have done Clark no harm for national notice in 1940. Instead, Clark went into conference with Pendergast and Senator Truman, after which it was stated that District Attorney Milligan of Kansas City, who had been getting convictions in all the election fraud cases, would be permitted to finish those cases, after which his successor would be named by Senator Truman. Public opinion in Missouri simply would not accept this treatment of Milligan, and President Roosevelt himself seemed to disapprove of it. When the protest became sufficiently strong and the determination of the President to rename Milligan became clear, Clark then announced

that he would favor Milligan's reappointment, even though Senator Truman was opposed to it. Then Truman had to back up, and Milligan was renamed. Pendergast's comment was that he still intended to support Clark and that he would not break his promise to Clark even though Clark broke fifty promises to him.

Add to that the fact that Clark voted for the confirmation of Black, and called Roosevelt a second Jackson, you will see how hard it is for any loyal Republican to take Bennett as this year's leader, much as we admire him for his fight on the World Court, and love him for his personal charm.

Cordially yours

JWB/CH