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WATSON, ESS, GRONER, BARNETT WHITTAKER
DIERKS BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
TELEPHONES VICTOR 3132

I. N. WATSON
HENRY N. ESS
POWELL C. GRONER
PAUL V. BARNETT
CHAS. E. WHITTAKER
ELTON L. MARSHALL
CARL E. ENGGAS
JOHN R. MOBERLY
V. B. KASSEBAUM
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WM. D. WORNALL
CHAS. W. MORGAN

May 4, 1938

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

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Today in Judge Otis's court 14 of our vote fraud cases involving 112 defendants were called for trial in the federal court and we had an unprecedented field day for the Government. Eight pleaded guilty outright, fifty- one others pleaded nolo contendere, and only eight persons out of sixty-seven entered pleas of not guilty. More cases were set for this afternoon and the latest newspaper shows that something like 100 persons either entered pleas of nolo contendere or of guilty and will be sentenced in a few days. I am herewith enclosing you a clipping from The Kansas City Star containing this morning's proceedings in our federal court. It looks like the backbone of the defense in these cases has been broken and I think the great majority of the remaining cases will be pleas of guilty. A number of Democratic precinct captains pleaded guilty this morning or entered a plea of nolo contendere, and it is quite evident that the Government will use those precinct captains for getting indictments against the higher-ups who have not yet been indicted.

This has been the worst blow that the Pendergast organization has as yet received. A number of our good Democrats who are supporting the Governor are organizing for a contest at the coming primary in August. There is going to be a bitter fight here between the Governor's friends and the Pendergast organization. The main thing now to be done is to rid our last registration of about 40,000 fraudulent voters that are now registered. I have been trying to get Governor Stark's Democratic

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friends to join the Republicans in making demand on our election commissioners that they at once proceed to make a thorough canvass of the present registration and to strike off the fraudulent voters that are now registered. This ought to be done at once instead of waiting until the August primary is approaching before taking up the matter.

I have been advising with Judge Douglas's friends and urging them to get busy on

this fraudulent registration and to purge that registration of these illegal registrants. If you are in close touch with Judge Douglas's St. Louis friends, I wish you would put this matter up to them for their consideration. Every one of those fraudulent registrants will be voted against Judge Douglas at the August primary. I think now is the time for both Republicans and the Stark Democrats to get busy and let us clean up this fraudulent registration in our city. It is to the interest of both parties to have this done. Any suggestions you can put forward to aid in this matter will be duly appreciated. We are trying to get the Republicans reorganized here into something like a decent and respectable organization.

I am very much gratified at the results that have been obtained in our federal court. The coming grand jury undoubtedly will indict a large number of people in wards which have not been reported upon by the past grand juries.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

I. N. Watson

INW:HWC

Encl.