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February 11, 1932

Mr. J. D. Hawkins,  
1130 West Broadway,  
Webb City, Missouri

My dear Mr. Hawkins:

I have recently returned from a somewhat protracted canvass of counties in Northwest Missouri and find your much appreciated letter of January 25 awaiting me. It was mighty fine of you to write me as you did and I desire to very gratefully acknowledge the interest you are taking in my candidacy.

I note your observations concerning visits of Senator Dearmont to Webb City and of his introduction to the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. Honey as the "next Governor of Missouri." In this your distinguished fellow townsman may be mistaken. In view of the character of campaign which Dearmont and some of his followers are making against me, I rather doubt that the voters of Missouri will ever desire him as Governor. Particularly is this true of his attitude and that of quite a number of his supporters toward the militant Kansas City Democratic organizations, principally the one headed by Mr. Pendergast. Mr. Pendergast's organization and affiliated Democratic organizations in Jackson County gave our ticket majorities running as high as 60,000 in 1930. They gave Lee, now joining forces with the Dearmont crowd in fighting them, something over 55,000 in the year mentioned. It is exceedingly regrettable that those calling themselves Democrats, seem determined in their efforts to destroy the only cohesive Democratic organization which is capable of overthrowing the brutal Republican organization of St. Louis. Briefly, what would the Democratic party do in Missouri without the wholehearted support of the Jackson County organizations in general elections?

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2- Mr. J. D. Hawkins.

Mr. Roney was very pleasant to me when I was in Webb City. His attitude rather inclined me to believe that he would be one of my supporters, but I was confidentially informed, before leaving your city, that he would not be found on my side, but would support Dearmont.

As indicated, I am very, very grateful for the fine work you are doing for me. Won't you please keep it up. While everything from everywhere is coming in mighty fine for me, I am fearful that in view of these reports, some of my friends may become overconfident. Overconfidence, you know, is dangerous and has wrecked many a boat in midstream.

Won't you please let me hear from you from time to time as occasion may require, concerning the progress of my campaign in your county. When you have leisure, won't you visit Carthage and make rather careful inquiry there. I am hearing reports which indicate that Dearmont may have considerable strength in that city and his followers are claiming that he will badly beat me in Carthage. In making your report about this, please let me have the facts for and against and the names of those who appear to be actively championing Dearmont's cause.

With kindest personal regards and again thanking you, I am

Sincerely your friend,