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Office of the Vice President

Louisiana, Mo.

February 24, 1932.

Senator Francis M. Wilson,
2008 Linwood Boulevard,
Kansas City, Missouri.

My dear Senator:

The enclosed is self-explanatory. It went to Clarence Cannon and I ought to hear from him before long. I have also some lines out through other sources which may give us the information.

Most sincerely yours,
Lloyd C. Stark

LCS:M

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February 24, 1932.

Mr. Wm. Ledbetter,
309 Argonne Ave.,
Long Beach, Calif.

My dear Bill:

After a recent talk with Senator Wilson and Pendergast and some later correspondence, at Senator Wilson's suggestion I went down to St. Louis to have a talk with John Bangle and Igoe regarding the possibility of taking advantage of your services to aggressively push the Wilson campaign in and around St. Louis and also to help organize under Senator Wilson's direction the out State situation, out State publicity, etc.

Both Bangle and Igoe were deeply interested, both spoke very highly of your standing and ability, and they think we may be able to work it out some way so that you could take up this work of raising funds from legitimate small contributions to finance your activities and publicity and organizing the counties somewhat along the lines of the organization we perfected during the road bond campaign.

They both said that the matter of funds was vital this year because it is very difficult to get campaign contributions and because of the numerous calls for charities that are being made on everyone. I told them that it was my opinion from what you had told me that with your contacts and acquaintances out in the state in previous campaigns that you could, under their direction and the direction of Senator Wilson, take care of the financing, publicity, and organization, probably financing yourself so that they would not have to spend any great amount.

The sentiment now is, of course, that we are going to have a Democratic Governor so it is a race between Wilson and Dearmont, with Dearmont far in the rear but gain-

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ing ground. However it isn't a question of simply defeating him for Senator Wilson, Nangle, Igoe, and I, and in fact every one who is actively pushing his campaign that I

have talked to are anxious to make it a landslide for the benefit that will accrue in the election campaign and election.

I heard in St. Louis that Winters is rapidly gaining ground and that Becker may not be the Republican nominee after all, although I can hardly believe this.

I understand from those who know in St. Louis that the committeemen are mostly for Wilson but some have been hanging in the balance because there have been rumors that Dearmont was going to have a pot of money, however I hear that this is simply bunk. While he is fairly well financed he is not any too well financed. Of course, everyone thinks he is a nice chap and most everywhere he goes he makes some votes but a good tight organization of the whole state and St. Louis will take care of the situation.

Igoe and Nangle are arranging for a big organization meeting of a Wilson For Governor Club to be staged in St. Louis Thursday. They want me to come down and make a talk but I have just spent three or four days down there and only got home last night and won't be able to get away again this week.

To make a long story short, after talking to Sen. Wilson and also mentioning the matter to Col. Pendergast, I went to St. Louis and talked to Igoe and Nangle relative to using your services. They said they weren't financially able to do anything along that line right at present but after I showed them that you might be able to finance your office yourself they thought it quite likely that they could use you in some sort of Wilson for Governor St. Louis Headquarters, and at the same time you could handle the publicity for St. Louis and such of the counties as Senator Wilson wanted you to handle and in no way interfere with his own headquarter activities at that city or elsewhere. The details, of course, will have to be worked out by Senator Wilson, Igoe and Nangle.

In case they find that arrangement can be made could you come to St. Louis on this proposition sometime in April with the view to working in something along the above lines both for the primary campaign and for the election campaign later? I am sending copy of

this letter to Igoe and Nangle, also to Wilson and Pendergast.

Yours very sincerely,

LCS:M