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Mr. Ewing Y. Mitchell,
Jefferson Hotel,
St. Louis, MO.

Dear Ewing;

Your letter received with enclosures and was pleased to hear from you.

I do not intend to attend the Reed banquet, for reasons similar to the ones you expressed in your letter. I can see no good reason for mingling in an affair of this kind and at this time. Some one has a snake in the grass plan somewhere and I mentioned this the other day to Curtin and Duncan. I do not know whether anyone will go from here but Peterson might be there. He is a strong Reed man but hell bent for election for Roosevelt after the first complimentary vote.

You need have no fear of the delegates in northwest Missouri and I hope you are not duly alarmed over what might happen at this meeting which of course, would be extraneous, of what happened at the convention, and would react with greater force to Roosevelt, in the climax, in my opinion.

I do not believe that you will find so many of the delegates there, mostly old time friends etc., of Reed's with the under cover stuff from Kansas City, to bolster up their desires. In my opinion they are over playing their hand on the Reed situation.

Lately, I have not smelled the reasons for many things the Kansas City crowd have suggested, but I will get it before I get through. I do know that Tom Prendergast,

confidentially, gave Al Smith real hell, after his return from the east some time ago and made this statement in a private meeting in Kansas City, on the actions of Smith against Roosevelt. That can be taken for what it is worth.

In conclusion, and mark my word, if they try to put over anything outside that convention, at this meeting, there will surely be a boomerang for Roosevelt amongst delegates in Missouri yet I fear the usual Prendergast control will design the plans and they are no fools with their other state races getting so hot and needing help and I imagine they will be damned careful of what they try to do there.

I hope to see you some day but until then, good luck and the wind had blown the tide back to Roosevelt, and if he will keep his mouth shut now and sit in his chair in Albany, it will swing more

Very sincerely yours,

Barney E. Reilly