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HOPKINS B SHAIN. P J

FRANCIS H TRIMBLE. J

EWING C. BLAND. J

A D CAMPBELL

R M REYNOLDS

COMMISSIONERS

Kansas City Court of Appeals

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

L. F. McCOY. CLERK

KANSAS City, Mo.

February

Thirteenth,

1934.

Honorable E. Y. Mitchell,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Uncle:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. In answer to the questions therein propounded, I will say that we are under a managerial form of government in Kansas City. In theory the elections are non-political. There are no party tickets or party designation of candidates. Each candidate is listed under the particular office he is running for and the voter makes his choice. We have two elections the first being the preliminary and the second the final election. The preliminary election eliminates all but the two candidates for the particular office receiving the highest number of votes. How-

ever, the fact that any candidate may receive a majority over all in the preliminary election does not elect him to the office, but he must run again in the run-off or the final election.

This scheme of government was first put into effect under a republican administration and they immediately turned it into a political affair by getting out a slate of the incumbent office holders and asking the republican voters to support them. The democrats followed suit and since then we have had in each election a republican and a democratic slate. The voters, very generally, have voted these slates along political lines.

However, in the coming election, we have a democratic slate and a citizens slate, as well as a republican. The majority of the republican organization is supporting the citizens slate, which is composed of men who are democrats and republicans. The men who are democrats are a majority to the extent of one upon the slate.

Answering your first question, to-wit: "That position the Republican organization is taking concerning the approaching city primary and election in Kansas City"? My answer is that from 85% to 90% of that organization is supporting the citizens slate.

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Answering your second question, to-wit: "Is the Republican ticket being put forward for nomination in the primary backed by the Republican organization and if not what influence is behind it?" I will state that the republican ticket is backed by from 10% to 15% of the republican organization and that minority of the organization is headed by E. Mont Riley, who was President Harding's Governor-General of Porto Rico.

Answering your third question, to-wit: "Are the Republican bosses or any of them supporting the Pendergast slate"? I will state that I have "no knowledge of any republican boss supporting that slate. There are only a very few real bosses left in the republican party here and they, so far as I can learn, are unanimously supporting the citizens ticket. I believe the democrats will win in the final election.

With kindest regards to Aunt Maude, the children and yourself, in which Faye joins, I remain

Yours very truly,

Ewing C. Bland

ECB/HM.