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March 12, 1934.

Hon. Homer S. Cummings,  
Attorney General,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear General:

A furious campaign for the election of the full list of city officers in Kansas City on March 27 is now in progress. These officers consist of Mayor, 8 Councilmen and 2 Police Judges. The election is being held under a charter which prohibits the use of any political designation on the tickets and was designed to bring about a non—partisan city government.

The contest is between the Citizens ticket divided politically as follows:

Mayor - Democrat

4 Councilmen - Democrats

4 " Republicans

2 Police Judges - Republicans.

The Pendergast machine ticket consist wholly of Democrats. At the primary last Tuesday, the machine received 104,000 votes. The Fusion ticket 86,000 and the Republican ticket 4,000. The latter was eliminated. 70,000 did not vote. There is no doubt but that a tremendous amount of ballot-box stuffing and false returns were indulged in to boost the Pendergast vote to 104,000.

For several weeks a movement has been forming in Kansas City known as The National Youth Movement and it now has 30,000 members. The object of the organization is to oust the Pendergast machine. This movement may spread all over the Nation.

The machine is asking its campaign on the basis that a vote against it is a vote against the President and the New Deal.

A great many citizens were assaulted during primary day last Tuesday by the machine hoodlums. Many automobiles were damaged. The Citizens Committee has 3000 affidavits covering the assaults, irregularities et cetera. The Governor was appealed to to come

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to Kansas City and hold an open meeting but refused to moot court has been established with an eminent preacher as the and two lawyers to examine the witnesses. This testimony is being a taken down and being published every day by the papers of the city.

I have known Dr. A. Ross Hill, the candidate for mayor, for many years. He is one of the ablest men in the State and of sterling character. He was for 14 years President of the State University during which time he demonstrated great talent as an administrator. His wife for several years was President of the Women's Kansas City-Jefferson Club.

The Kansas City Star is openly opposing the machine ticket. The Star from the standpoint of circulation ranks near the top of all the newspapers in the country. It covers the western half of Missouri, the whole of Kansas and circulates largely in Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma. It is by far the leading Kansas paper and can usually carry that State in any election.

An effort is being made to get Mayor La Guardia to go to Kansas City to speak in behalf of the fusion ticket. I think it would be a great stroke of policy, as well as a most patriotic move on your part, if you would go to Kansas City and speak in behalf of the fusion ticket before La Guardia gets there. Why not lead these 30,000 members of the Youth Movement into the Democratic Party.

Pendergast and Shannon, the two leaders of the machine were delegates to the National Convention in 1932. Every vote they cast, on temporary Chairman, Report of the Committee on Credentials and on all other ballots except the last ballot for President when they were not needed, was cast against the President's interest.

You could make the trip to Kansas City and spend a day and evening there by the loss of only 3 days from Washington. If Sunday is included you would lose only 2 business days. I will furnish you schedule of trains if it is desired. To make the trip you would leave here at 11:00 P.M. over the Baltimore and Ohio and return over that road, arriving at 7:40 A.M.

Very truly yours,