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Honorable Ewing Y. Mitchell

Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Department of Commerce

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am just plowing out of some of the accumulation of work and correspondence which resulted from much absence from the office and the confusion of moving. I have before me your letters of March 15, April 2 and April 3.

In your letter of March 15 you enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. T. O. Donnell as well as your reply to him. I may say that I had two or three conversations with Mr. Donnell, and while I did not read the material which he had I delivered it to Dr. Hill, with Mr. Donnell's permission, who read it, but since it related nearly altogether to county affairs it was of little use in the municipal campaign. Mr. Donnell seemed to be a fine man who

had lost his position with the County because he had too much conscience left to do what would have been required of him in order to retain his position. He expressed the hope that through you he might ultimately secure some employment.

As to your letter of April 2, I am glad to advise you that we received the package which I left with Miss Nolen for shipment, and we have also received from the Attorney General's Office the petition which was sent to the President.

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I made arrangements with Mr. Reed of the Kansas City Star for shipment to you of ten copies each of the Times of March 28 and of the noon edition of the Star of March 28, and understand from Mr. Reed that these have already been sent you. The ten each were all that I was able to secure.

As to your letter of April 3, I share the fundamental attitude which you have towards the necessity of finding someone to run for the Senate who is disengaged from this local machine. Based upon numerous reports and conversations which I have had with the finest type of citizens from over the State, I am satisfied that the machine cannot hope to put over again soon a candidate upon whom all of the people of the State are entitled to vote. It is most astounding to realize how deep and widespread the rural opposition has suddenly become as a result of the tragedies of our last city election. It is generally reported that Shannon, Aylward and Howell have concluded that it is an unlikely time for them to seek the nomination. Milligan of course has little but Bennett Clark's blessing to recommend him for the place, and I have not encountered any sentiment which assesses his ability or chances very high. Meredith is utterly without qualification or likelihood. I have the impression, and it is only an impression, that Mr. Hirth would encounter some very deep-seated opposition. From what I have learned through others, and especially from yourself, I think he is the most likely candidate for those of us who are working for the dethronement of the machine who has as yet been suggested. It is thought here that Jim Reed's championing Dr. Wirt is, as would be characteristic, not prompted by his concern over the subject matter but rather a convenient vehicle for him to restore himself

to the front page of the newspapers and perhaps serve as something of a trial balloon with which to test the sentiment towards his candidacy for the Senate, for which his wife is thought to be most interested. I am confident from what two members of the Cabinet said to me that his candidacy would be looked upon with great disfavor by the Administration, and that would certainly be expected in view of the sniping which he has been doing.

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I have spent considerable time in thinking of the various men in the State who have the character, ability, public standing and disengagement from the machine sufficiently to qualify them for the U. S. Senate, and I can say to you that I have after much thought come to the conclusion that Allen McReynolds of Carthage possesses these qualifications in a rare degree. I should be inclined to suggest the name of Judge Franklin Miller of St. Louis but for the fact that he would start with the handicap of being another Senator from the same city, and then, too, much sentiment is developing for him as a candidate for Governor. I have written to Allen McReynolds to test his attitude towards such candidacy. I wish you would give the matter some thought and write me your views about it.

One day about a week ago I met Mr. Clemens on the street and had quite a nice visit with him. As you well know, the generosity of his friendship is very unusual, and he demonstrated it by greeting me with the statement that he was thinking of me as he had come down town that morning, and then he proceeded to tell me why, as he had thought of it, I would be the logical candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Senate. This of course is quite out of the question, as you will at once realize, first because I am poor and cannot be unmindful of the obligation which I have to my wife and three children, next because I represent the Union Electric Light and Power Company (although I think I have established such a character in the minds of people who know me as to materially diminish that as a handicap). There are numerous other reasons which it is not worthwhile to extend in this letter. I may say that Mr. Clemens and I had a very delightful visit and much of our time was devoted to talking of you and of the influence which you

had had in our city election.

This letter ought not to be concluded without my saying to you that although on paper the machine won a tremendous victory that is not an accurate measurement of the result. In reality it has probably never suffered a worse defeat. For example, on a week ago Friday night the National Youth Movement held a public meeting at Ivanhoe Temple, That was some ten days after the election. The purpose of the meeting

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was to announce the future program of the organization, and every available seat in the house was taken and numerous persons were standing. Instead of being a dejected meeting it was more like a pre-election meeting. The enthusiasm was high, in fact higher than at any meeting prior to the election, and the audience was composed of substantial, middle class, mature people as well as numerous fine young folks. It may be some time before we can take the fair measure of the election, but I am satisfactorily convinced that the campaign was the most devastating attack which has ever been made upon the machine, and the tragedies of election day sounded an endless knell to this machine.

Please be good enough to remember me to Miss Nolen and the ladies in your office and let me have a letter from you at your convenience.

With assurance of esteem and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,
Edgar Shook
ES-Mc