

MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY MR. MITCHELL'S SECRETARY
GIVING CONTENTS OF LETTER WRITTEN BY MR. COFFIN

Lyman G. Coffin, 2706 Bales Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, claims blood relation with Theodore Roosevelt and, hence, through marriage is related with President Roosevelt.

He has been out of work for a long time, is married and has a three-year-old baby and were expecting the stork again but after he was so severely injured by the Fusionists following the primary election March 6th, his wife lost the baby from worry over his condition.

He thought the Pendergast machine would reward him for his work at the primary election, which is the reason he signed up with them. On election day he was sent by his precinct captain and the district committeeman with another man, who had been drinking, to a distant precinct to do some "ghost" voting. The names he was to vote were given him by the henchman he was sent out with. One of the names happened to be a man 59 years old - Coffin is only 30 - so the Republican Judge challenged the vote and tried to have him arrested but the Democratic judge got him out of the predicament.

He says some Fusionists were present and heard the proceedings and laid in wait for him that night; took him out in a car, robbed and beat him badly. He was sent by his local Democratic leaders in his ward to an assistant city counselor to make a statement about the affair. A back molar tooth was broken by a blow from a black jack and he was ruptured in his right groin; doctors say an operation will be necessary. When he appeared before the assistant counselor (his statement was filed in Judge Southern's Court) the counselor also stated regarding his injuries that his four upper front teeth also had been knocked out by the thugs election night - he denied to the counselor that fact, stating that he had a perfectly good bridge for the four teeth but the counselor explained that it might pay him if that bridge was out in order to satisfy Fusion headquarters if they made an investigation of his claims. Coffin was led to believe that if he got rid of his bridge Democratic headquarters would stand the expense of replacing it, besides perhaps giving him and his wife other financial help but, of course, the agreement was not written. So he filed and broke off his bridge in order that his statement would be more

effective. How his ward leaders have backed down on his and refuse to give him work or pay for repairs to his bridge (he paid \$78.00 in the beginning.) Other workers in the ward, who were workers before him, are being given the preference with jobs - thus he is being double crossed by the very persons who were responsible for him being beaten up. He has pawned his watch and clothes to get funds and on May 15th went back to Democratic headquarters to ask Pendergast to aid his wife financially, while he went to the hospital for his operation, and also for funds to fix his teeth. But because the district committeeman, who got him into all this trouble, would not say the right word in his behalf, Pendergast turned him away.

He admits that he did wrong - says he was desperate and thought this would secure him a job - but has prayed God for forgiveness and vows he will never do wrong again.

The letter is addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt and he requests that she see that Democratic headquarters in Kansas City replace his teeth and give his wife enough money to last until he is able to work. (I guess he has had his operation.) If this is not possible, then maybe he can get the necessary funds from National Headquarters in Washington. Asks her to tell them that he is an honest Democrat who slipped once but will never slip again. Clipping inclosed from the Kansas City News-Press giving story of him being taken for a "ride" by the Fusionists.