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Ashgrove, Mo.

August, 6 1936

Dear Mr. Mitchell

You nodoubt have read in the press ere this about Pendergast haveing selected a group of state candidates and congressmen for the Democrat party in Missouri. The results is not at all surpriseing to those who were in a position to observe the tactics employed[.] It is generally conceded that all appointees both Federal and state were shook down for a sizeable some witch to finance the machine in the rural counties as well as the cities and as a result all public works employes were got to the polls and voted. Reports of fraud and co-ertion is heard upon every hand, even Joe Shanon revolted at the situation in Kansas City. Wellinformed persons here are of the opinion that they voted their full strength in the primary, They are equally certain that the republicansgreat numbers of them for lack of interst stayed at home.

Some express the opinion that if the stay at home ones can be aroused so that they can be gotten to the polls that there will be A strong ;ikely hood of then electing agovernor.

If is generally believed that hirth will declare himself very soon for Baret and if he does I feel pretty sure that most of the L 175,000 who supported him, Hirth will go with him allthe way.

Hirth's following lam well convinced is made up of the old democratic families of missouri and they are highly incensed and thoroughly disgusted.

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I have entertained the hope all the while that you would come to Mo. and give off a series of interviews to reporters for the large papers of the state makeing an appeal to the honest to goodness democrats of the state to fall in line to clean house.

I believe that literly thousands would follow you provided you did not attack the national administration here in Mo. The president has lost but little here in Mo. and I believe that

on account of the terrible drouth conditions existing that he will gain back all he has lost and perhaps more it looks now as if the republicans will direct their fight on the Pendergast machine other than the administration.

I wish that you could arrange a conference with Barret and Hirth in the very near future in ST, Louis in order to effect a working organization.

It appears to me that he would grant you both a liberal slice of patronage to distribute where you could make it most effective.

If such an arrangement is worked out I am placing my bid with you now for a real plum in the way of an appointment, and I cannot get a mental picture of my self deserting you as some have whom we thought were our friends down through the years I have hid nothing but chestnut burr hulls with the nuts removed handed me by my own party so I am in a receptive mood to receive something different from some other source. I will be glad to hear from you and have your reaction to the whole situation. I believe it is your opportunity to even the score with the corrupt Kansas city machine. Sincerely yours.

J.M. Harper