

[page 1]

Kansas City, Missouri

Jan. 15, 1937

Dearest Ewing:

Your air-mail letter reached me just as I was leaving the office yesterday. I read only your letter to me before leaving, and it seemed so flat and dis-interested I couldn't keep from crying all the way home. But after I got home and read your wonderful letter to Judge B I felt thoroughly satisfied. It was certainly putting it up to him in the strongest terms possible and was exactly what he needed.

Just at five o'clock on the 12th, Jones told me that the Judges decided that it v/as necessary to cut expenses and that ray services would be terminated Feb. 1st., and he walked away glowing with satisfaction. I walked on back to Judge Bland's and he was in. I told him what had occured and he said he had known it for a week but hadn't mentioned it to me as there wasn't anything I could doabout it, nor anyone for that matter. He said he had investigated the matter and foundthat they had already been to see Jimmy Pendergast and he said to Jones, "Whatever you want to do I will endorse." Judge Shain went in to Judge Bland and told him they must cut me off the payroll as legislature would surely raise cane about the expenses of our court which are more than the St. Louis Court of Appeals. The Judge (B) said "I am sorry to hear that and it is not my wish to see Miss Plummer go."Then it was all taken up in consultation over a week ago and he again told them it was not his wishes. The fact that Jones had gone to Pendergast had settled it definitely in Judge Bland's mindthat nothing should be done about it. I suggested he go to Alyward, but he said it would be useless.I asked if Kitchen could not go and he said he would not advise it as it might jeopardize his job. Kitchen had already told me that he was close enough to Alyward that he could and did talk to him about anything. I begged him to let Kitchen go to Alyward, that I thought we could accomplish more if we tried than if we did nothing at all. He then said he thought I had done very well to remain here as long as I had and dusted his hands together as though finishing with the matter.

Later, after again talking to Kitchen, who said he would not go to Alyward unless Judge Bland said to, I again asked Judge Bland if he would not talk to Kitchen and he said he would but that he must be thoroughly advised in the case. He called him in in my presence and told him all about it, and while he did not put into actual words that he thought it might jeopardise Kitchen's job, he made it most plain, but Kitchen did not catch it. The fact that he called him in led Kitchen to believe the Judge was asking him to do it. Well, All day yesterday Alyward was out of town. You must have sent the Judge's letter to his house because he called Kitchen and told him he would go to see Alyward, after refusing to do so for me. So you see the impression your letter made on him. That was late last evening so I imagine he will see Alyward sometime today.

At any rate this place is a battle ground, with Jones and Stratton turning in every complaint possible against me to everyone that

[page 2]

will listen. They want to make the Princess secure with her salary of \$2800. per year. I had a very straight talk with Stratton yesterday and think I threw a scare into him. At any rate he ran right in to Judge Bland , I presume to prepare him for what I might say. He said to me that of course a disgruntled employe on their way out always had a lot of imaginery things to say. I know a number of other things about him, also about Jones, since I saw you, which have come to light. Stratton said to me after our fiery talk that he was really my friend. I told him there was just one way he could prove it and that would be to go with me to see Pendergast and get an endorsement from him. He couldn't promise to do that.

I think your idea extremely good that Alyward's name be taken from the pay roll. Why couldn't I do the reporting he does. I am sure I could, and as you say, it is known that West changes them around to suit themselves." The Syllabus merely states the facts of the case, some of the authorities quoted and the decision which anyone can get from a reading of the opinion. If I could do that I would be removed from the clerk's office and

might be able to move into the little private room across the hall where I would have good light and air. I am going to ask Judge Bland about it today. Just as long as I remain in here this triumvirate of the devil will lead me a worse life than that of a dog. For the past year and a half the fight has been under cover with a polite surface, but now that it has come to the surface the slight veneer is off and I am an open enemy which they are watching from every possible angle to find fault with me, and there are three against one and what diabolical scheme those three cannot think of is unthinkable.

Thirty minutes after Jones told me the news the other night, I had an attack of migraine. My neck, face and hands are broken out like I had the smallpox; my eyes, lips and face are swelled and my vision distorted. I went to the doctor yesterday and he said it was the worst form of migraine he had ever witnessed. The broken places itch something awful and my hand was bloody this morning from where I had scratched the skin during the night. The doctor said I simply had to go home and to bed, that while I never have broken out only on face, neck and hands, it would be extremely dangerous should I break out all over. I can hardly get around today, having vomited all day yesterday, but I am here.

You said I might be happier out of the court. I am beginning to believe it might be a happier death to starve to death than to be worried to death down here. Jones told Kitchen that I was the quiet kind that wouldn't fight back and he expected no trouble from me. He is terribly surprised that I am kicking up such a fuss. I don't know what I can do, if anything, but nothing is going to be overlooked. I talked to Judge Sperry who is very close to Gov. Stark, but he said he could do nothing. I wrote to Judge Campbell, but have not heard from him. Judge Campbell assured me last week that he was my friend and admired me greatly. I thought possibly through some friend of his he might appeal to the governor who, it is reported, is not bossed by the Pendergast faction. Judge Southern told me that for one, I went to see him, too. He told me had no influence with Pendergast whatever,

or with Truman, but was an independent. I have always heard that he was He advised me to get a letter from the Governor. He has heard plenty about this court, too, he said.

Have just had a long talk with Judge Shain, who assured me that it was only through him that I have remained here the past year; that being sponsored by you, dozens had been after him to put me out; that the law said the clerk could appoint his own deputy and that but one was allowed. Jones chose the Princess and that he had nothing whatever to do about it. I asked him if we could figure out some way to get around that matter would he be for me. He said there could not be any way he felt sure, but if there should be, he most surely would. All of which means nothing except that no one has ever thought of the plan you suggested, which shows that your noodle is still in fine working order. Now, if we can get Judge Bland to do his duty, all may yet be well. Mrs. Mason heard the Judge (Bland) talking to Shain, and she said it was the weakest protest she ever heard. I can imagine the Judge has wished a thousand times he had never heard of me, which of course, I cannot help. I hate to be a pain in the neck to him, but on the other hand, of what use is one in life if they cannot put themselves out once in a while to help a friend, or mankind in general. I will not mail this out until I have talked with Judge Bland this afternoon.

At Home

Well, Judge Bland didn't call me in until five o'clock and I fully expected him to have some news for me. He said he decided not to go to Alyward until he had first asked me if I thought you would approve of me obligating myself to the Pendergast faction. A whole day lost! I told him while it was far from desirable, I was sure that you wanted him to see Alyward in my behalf. However, my hopes were blasted about my being the reporter as Judge said the law required it to be a lawyer and that we had to have one according to law. Therefore if it wasn't Alyward it would have to be some other lawyer. Judge Shain went in and talked with him and said if we could find some way to cut \$2000 off the clerk's office expenses, he would be glad to have me stay but that Jones had selected the Princess and therefore there was no money left for my salary. If no one is cut off or

cut down, of course, it is impossible to lop off \$2000 from the clerk's office. No one has yet objected to our expenditures out Shain said they would. Go you see there is nothing to the whole thing but a frame-up of Jones and Stratton, therefore unless Judge Bland does his stuff, I am lost and he has no heart in it at all. He is the world's most immovable man. Nothing touches him. I told him I had received your letter and copy of his (since you had put carbon to me at the bottom) and I certainly appreciated your loyalty and thought it was a tribute to him that he could be such a friend to you that you had gone to such extreme lengths to help him. He gave me his usual sickly smile. I had already mentioned to him that if the worst came to the worst could he get them to postpone my departure. He thought possibly he might for a month but was not sure. If you can think of anything rush it along as time is getting short. I am sorry, too, to cause you the work and annoyance of this but I see no way to avoid it.

Yours, exhausted,

Marie