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Kansas City, Missouri

January 20, 1937

Dearest Ewing:

Your letter and copy of one to Judge B received last night. Your letter to the Judge was wonderful and should stir him up if anything in the world would, anything except of course his own welfare. We know it wouldn't take much to excite him if our positions were reversed.

I was afraid he was backing down when he said to me that he wanted to hear from you before he did anything because he would be sure to be asked if you had requested it and he would have to say YES. I said, why Judge, wouldn't you ask it on your own account? Why would you have to bring in Mr. Mitchell's name? He did not give me a direct answer to that except to say that he wanted me to remain. If he did go about asking for a favor to you how far would he get with that? It looks to me like an alibi pure and simple because he doesn't want to do anything about it.

Kitchen told me when this blow first fell that Alyward hated Pendergast and had told him so and that they simply tolerated each other; that they did not agree on many things but that each was allowed his say; that if Alyward said I should remain that would be all there was to it. Here he was willing to go to Alyward almost a week ago and ask that I be retained as a favor to him and in the name of justice, and Judge B told him NOT TO GO. At that time the Judge promised that he would go, now that you have told him not to use your name that gives him a perfect excuse. I wish you had plainly stated for him to go to Alyward and ask in his own name that I be retained. I think that would settle it. Now if Kitchen should go and his plea is not backed up by Judge B it would not have much weight since Alyward already knows that Judge B was trying to contact him for two or three days and George Alyward knows all about the affair through Mrs. Mason and Kitchen and told me himself George Aylward that he would take it up with his brother. I

suppose they are wondering why the lost interest.

It is indeed a spineless court that allows a new clerk of a year dictate to it. A good example of that was when I told Judge B about the carpet affair he merely said, "Well, that's a matter for the clerk's office to take care of." So I suppose he would sit right there and permit them to carry off the place, which they have practically done and are doing, and never utter a protest.

I have made no threats to anyone and have avoided talking to anyone in clerk's office except once to Stratton when he called me out to talk to me.

As to my being happier out of the court, I could not be happy working myself to death for \$15.00 a week which my friend, Hazel Sheets, and a number of others are doing. She gets only a few days work now and then and works like a dog for the big sum of \$15.00 a week. Business

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is so bad that business men and lawyers will let work accumulate for days and weeks and then call in someone for a couple of days. She has been going to some of the same offices for a day or two a week all winter. They cannot afford to keep anyone all the time. I could not stand that very long or I would have a complete breakdown. Things may get better but I think that is all paper talk of the new deal.

As to letting Judge B know you sent me a copy of the first letter to him, you must have put carbon copy to me on the original too for he knew I already that I had a copy and spoke of it before I did. I would not have mentioned it to him first for anything. Of course, he might have said what he did to find out if I had received a copy.

I have taken it up with Judge B about having my time extended, but as with everything else, he said he didn't know what he could do.

I was in hopes you might suggest to him that Stratton be the reporter as Judge Shain is going to be difficult to handle unless expenses are cut down in the clerk's office as that is the sole reason advanced to him by Jones. Of course, if Judge B would demand that owing to his term of service being longer than any of the others down here and the little representation he has had, that I be allowed to remain, at least, until his present term is up, I am sure he could put it over. But when he meekly protests and offers no suggestions, what can one expect. You are absolutely right, if I am allowed to go it is entirely his fault. Of course, you understand, the thing at the bottom of all this is simply Stratton's infatuation for this woman and their joint desire to keep her here and at a salary of \$2800 so they won't have to pay her so much out of their pockets. In other words, let the state keep up a sweetie for them. At that, they do give her expensive presents all the time. I found out she had or has a brother in the penitentiary and is married to an Italian.

As to thanking the Judge, when he said I was lucky to have held the position so long, at that time I told him - did appreciate it greatly and thanked him. Of course, I would thank him again as it has been a life saver and I am not underestimating it in the least.

I saw an airmail letter to the Judge again this morning. Of course, he will not be in until noon. I am in hopes you have thought of something helpful. Why didn't Judge tell me a week before Jones mentioned this to me? He merely sat by and did nothing at all. I told him the other day that I felt sure you would not object to him going to Alyward and asking in his own name. Perhaps you had better tell him that plainly or all is lost. He will not hesitate to do so when it comes time for his re-election, why should he hesitate on my account? You say I should get some outside influence which could mean only that I get someone to go to Alyward for me and the Judge is putting off seeing him because he says you don't want him to do so. The first thing I know I will be on the outside because of a misunderstanding. As you know, the Judge is so hard to talk to; he merely looks at me and says so little and that has little meaning. Hope you have sent me a carbon of your last letter. I am returning the one I received last night.

Always your same,

M