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Kansas City, Missouri

February 2, 1937

Dearest Ewing:

I was waiting for something to happen to write you about and now so much has happened, that I scarcely know where to begin. I will be brief as possible and leave details for when I see you.

One day last week I chanced to meet on the street. Clif Langsdale, whom I have known for many years. I used to live next door to his parents and he was home a lot. he asked me in a joking way how they were me up here. So, I told him the story. He simply roared. Had me go up to his office with him and tell him all about it. Right away he said that Judge Bland could put a stop to that if he tried. He and Judge Shain are pretty good friends, through John Barker and others. He Judge Shain twice and Reynolds once. The outcome - last Friday Chain called me in, together with Jones, and instructed Jones to write in the record that I was temporarily employed from day today in the same capacity, and went on to say that my employment might terminate any day but at the most could not run longer than August 1st, which would give me six months. There was no politics brought to bear as yet. Mr. Langsdale said said the occasion had arisen within the office it should be settled the same way. He pointed out to Shain that the legislature is restoring the circuit judges to \$8000 a year and are not recommending any cuts etc. etc. He tells me now that if Judge Bland will stand back of me he does not think I will hear any more about it.

I had a long talk with Judge Bland in which he intimated that he should like to see the letters you have written me. I told him I usually returned important letters to you and had none, which I haven't. Everyone has been carefully destroyed at home. But imagine him asking such a thing. He also repeated what he told me once before, that he thought it best not to tell you too much about what went on here at the Court. As to our court being

machine ruled, there isn't the slightest doubt of that in the world. Judge Bland said as long as no one tried to dictate to him about his opinions, he would not consider our court dominated. well, I understand that they have to Shain, and they certainly endorse who and who shall not be employed here. The last three employed, Jones, the Princess and John, the janitor, all have Pendergast's endorsement. Why, the janitor had never seen a member of t is court until the day he started working. Judge Campbell talked to me a long time and said he did not see why Eland shut his eyes to facts which everyone understood. Mr. Langsdale and John Barker just laughed in my face when I told them that Judge Bland did not want any political endorsements for me as he did not consider our court in politics. They asked me why he did not go to Aylward at once and settle the matter.

I told Judge Bland a number of things about what went on out here and he said: "Well, of course, if you had told me all this before it would have had more weight. It now looks like sour grapes and jealousy." Just the same as told me he didn't think I was telling him the truth. Then, he said, if all this were so, loss of \$500 carpet etc., that it was a matter to be taken up with the clerk's office and not for him to bother with. So you can readily see, he doesn't want to know what is going on so he won't have to do anything about it.

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I, of course, thanked Judge Bland and Judge Shain, although Judge Bland did not have a thing in the world to do with it, only the fact that I am his appointee carries some weight with it.

Stratton told Shain that an Aunt died and left me \$20,000. a short time ago and I did not need the money. That shows that in neither of the two talks Judge Bland had with Shain did he ever mention the fact that I needed the job.

You say in your letter of the 25th to Judge Bland: "I know that have never been very friendly disposed toward Miss Plummer and that you have only held her in the place or

my account * * " The fact is, he has done nothing to hold me here in the world as nothing has come up and I just continued on. He would have done the same way several years back.

Stratton has written at least 12 opinions, more I think, and for every Judge down here with the exception of Judge Bland, but I do not think Judge Campbell ever used the two he wrote for him, but he wrote a great number for Shain and Trimble and the lawyers do know about it as he told it far and near when he was pointing out his qualifications for commissioner.

Yes, the law says that a clerk may appoint his own deputy with the approval of the court. I am still deputy clerk and this woman is an assistant clerk, the same as Stratton and at the same salary, and is paid out of the fees of the office. She is not on the state books and the judges just let Stratton and Jones get by with it. Judge Bland told me she was here two months before he knew she was working here. She was here 3 weeks before I knew she was employed here. She and Stratton were back in his private office she never came up front for a long time. There was so much talk finally, among the lawyers in the library, that Jones thought it best to move them up here in the same room where he and I sit. I am shut off from the others with the glass partition. I mentioned to Judge Bland about the air and light here but he said there was nothing to be done about it.

Yes, I did understand you to say or mean that you thought Judge land should talk to Alyward. I was much surprised when you said "no." Of course, I knew you would not want the matter to be taken up with Pendergast but as I remembered it, you and Alyward were pretty good friends, and he being a member of our court, I thought that was your wish. Also, you spoke of Alyward resigning an reporter, and of course, the Judge would have had to bring up the matter if he talked to him about that.

At any rate, I am still here, sitting on a couple of tacks, and as long as I remain here, I do not think it well to rile up the Judge. He hasn't the slightest idea of resigning, and you

couldn't force him to and that is why he wants to stay blind to facts. What he doesn't know he cannot be expected to do anything about. He contradicted himself flatly several times in talking to me, but, of course, I let him get by with it. Better not quote me either as he will then see that I am telling you too much and gets me in bad with him. We are getting more and more in the clutches of the Pendergast faction and by the time the Judge's four years are up it will be so apparant that even he will have to acknowledge it and then watch what he does. Judge Trimble went with Judge Reynolds to see Pendergast and ask permission for Reynolds to run for Judge. Everyone knew it but Judge Bland, according to him.

Lovingly,

Marie