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Hon. E. Y. Mitchell
Springfield, Missouri

My dear Ewing:

I have your letter, and it isn't necessary for you to argue with me about Colonel Whitten, because I think a lot of him, and if he announces for Attorney General, I hope I will be free to support him. However, if McKittrick should run again, it would place me in an embarrassing position, and this because McKittrick has gone out of his way to befriend The Missouri Farmers Association in some important matters — one of them having been the cooperation he gave us some months ago against a spurious milk concern over in Illinois that is selling a coconut product against our Missouri milk plants,

and since you are no doubt familiar with our Producers Creamery Company in Springfield, you will realize that this is a field that is extremely important to us. Now there's no need of your arguing with me as between Whitten and McKittrick, but, as I say, I am confronted with a condition, and not a theory in these premises.

Incidentally, I hope you will favor Stark for Senator as against Milligan, and I say this simply because I think that Stark is entitled to a reward for the battle he has staged against the Pendergast crooks, and when Milligan visited me a few days ago, I told him what my attitude in this matter would be with entire frankness. On the other hand, I told him that I would be glad to support him for the Governorship, but apparently he is determined to run for the Senate. As matters now stand in this respect, I think the old machine crowd will line up for McDaniels of St. Louis, and therefore, if Phil Donnelly of Lebanon gets into it, I will be for him.

I have been confined to my home with serious illness now for several months, but am improving slowly, and hope that before a great while I will be able to get back on the firing line, at least in a modest way. I wish we could have an old-fashioned chat about things in general, and if you should get near Columbia, I hope you will drop in on me. I think you are not only a very able man, but one of the most courageous men I have ever known. Jim Farley calls me up every once in a while, and I have grown to like him a lot.

With kindest regards, and hoping that you will drop me a line from time to time, I am

Your friend,

William Hirth

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