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May 29, 1940

Honorable William Hirth,
Columbia, Mo.

My dear Hirth:

In your letter of the 13th you ask that I send you what information I have concerning Pendergast's attitude toward Roosevelt's candidacy in the Chicago Convention in 1932.

Some time ago I read Jim Farley's book entitled, BEHIND THE BALLOTS, and, of course, I was greatly outraged, though not at all surprised, when he gave Pendergast the chief credit for the support which Roosevelt secured from the Missouri delegation. I knew full well Pendergast not only contributed nothing to Roosevelt's support, but violently opposed his candidacy, and I also knew that Farley, who was more conversant with the facts than I was, was bound to know of Pendergast's opposition.

Farley has been running for President ever since Roosevelt's nomination in 1932. There is no doubt of this if we may Judge him by his never ending activities in that direction, and so, although he knew that you and I and a few others had much to do with the support Roosevelt obtained from the Missouri delegation, in order to curry favor with Pendergast, who was riding high at the time Farley's book was published, gave him most of the credit.

I told Farley from first to last during the campaign leading up to the Chicago convention that there was not the slightest chance of ever getting Pendergast's support because it was perfectly evident that no corrupt boss would support a reform candidate pledged to reduce public expenditures 25%, who favored the reduction of public utility charges to the people and was making a bold stand for good government all along the line.

During the third and crucial ballot in the Chicago convention, I planned to get Farley's real opinion of what Pendergast was doing, and I got it. My book, on page 20, states what occurred, as follows: "As the roll call proceeded Mr. Farley stood on the platform, perspiration standing out on his forehead in great beads, with a pencil and paper in hand recording the changes in the vote. I approached him and he said, "How many more votes can we get from Missouri?" I replied, "We can get all of them of Pendergast is for Roosevelt - how is Pendergast?" He said, "Damned if I know!"

After reading Farley's book I went to the trouble of getting the reports from the convention made by Curtis Betts and other correspondents of the St. Louis and Kansas City papers. I am frequently in these cities, and no looked over the files of the papers, and I enclose herewith excerpts from them which show conclusively, if any further evidence were required, that Pendergast's attitude was not only unfriendly, but violently so. I send two copies of those excerpts so you may send one to Farley if you like, although I can tell you in advance that your effort in doing so is

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absolutely useless because he knows, and has known all the time, that Pendergast was opposed to Roosevelt.

I was in the meeting of the delegation described by Curtis Betts in his dispatch of June 27th, and when Gauldoni stated he would vote for Roosevelt, Pendergast plunged at him like a mad bull.

Your article in the MISSOURI FARMER was the only one I circulated during the campaign, and it had great effect.

The campaign cost me \$1,100.00, all of which I paid out of my pocket, and so far as I

know, the two-thirds of the Missouri delegation which voted for Roosevelt cost his management not one single penny.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

EYM-R