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September 13, 1940

Mr. Westbrook Pegler,
Newspaper Columnist,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Pegler:

I read your column religiously. You ring the bell frequently but your article of Monday, in which you refer to "the crookedness to which the American public has adjusted itself in the years since 1932," was particularly a clear shot.

You have dealt some heretofore with the Pendergast machine but you may not have learned that Senator Truman was renominated for the Senate over Governor Stark and Maurice Milligan, former District Attorney. The latter sent Pendergast and 228 other election crooks to jail. Truman defeated Stark by about 7,500. During the last week of the campaign Senator Barclay came to St. Louis and made a speech for Truman and Senator Hatch made a speech for him in Kansas City and also in St. Louis. Of course, these Senators would not have spoken in Truman's behalf if it had not been agreeable to the President and probably urged by him.

The people of Missouri, and no doubt of the country also, were under the impression that Senator Hatch, who specialized in purity in politics, was a rare statesman sent from heaven to lead a reform of crooked politics. You can imagine the shock and disillusionment to which Missourians were subjected when Senator Hatch left his important duties in the Senate during the last week of July and came to Missouri to deliver speeches at Kansas City and St. Louis in behalf of the renomination of Senator Truman.

Of course, Senator Hatch was bound to have known that Truman came right out of

Boss Pendergast's vest-pocket, that his nomination was stolen for him in 1934, and that he is and has been during his term in the Senate, under complete control of Tom Pendergast and a few of his lieutenants.

In order that you may have some of the official figures compiled as the result of the activities of the Pendergast machine, I enclose herewith a statement issued by me in which they are set forth.

The New Deal gave Truman the preference over Stark although both of them were shouting from the housetops that they were 100% for Roosevelt and his policies, and Stark fought for Roosevelt delegates from Missouri to the Chicago convention in opposition to his old chum, Bennett Champ Clark.

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The whole Democratic ticket nominated are Pendergast machinests and were backed by Mayor Dickmann's St. Louis machine and the court house rings affiliated with Pendergast.

I wish you could take a shot at this situation before the election. It is no cinch that Truman will be defeated although one would expect it if the situation were not as you describe it in your article of Monday.

I understand you are a lover of dogs. I, therefore, send you a copy of Senator Vest's famous Tribute to the Dog.

Sincerely yours,

EYM-R

[P.S. Evidently the New Deal concluded that Truman, who has for years taken orders from a boss, would be more dependable than Stark. Moreover, the Pendergast machine still has 75,000 votes it can throw around & Roosevelt no doubt would like to have them in the Nov election.]