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Hon. T. J. Pendergast,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Pendergast

In this crisis in my political career, I desire to submit, in a friendly spirit, some observations which I believe are worthy of your serious consideration. Believing that you are a fair man and at all times disposed to deal fairly with all men, I am prompted again to call to your attention some matters which not only vitally affect me, but also involve the welfare of the great Democratic Organization of which you are the able leader, and which was built up and made powerful largely as the result of your wise counsel and direction.

I appreciate your friendship and the support you gave me in the 1932 primary. In that campaign and in previous campaigns, I supported the candidacy of men in whom you were vitally interested, and you know my support was loyal and to a limited extent, effective

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and worthwhile.

In the 1932 campaign, in perhaps 75 speeches, in some thirty five or forty counties, I defended you and your organization and insisted that you, as a loyal Democrat, who had made a tremendous contribution to the success of our party, had the right in primary contests to have a choice between Democratic candidates and to support the candidate of your choice, just the same as any other Democrat in Missouri, and that you should not be criticized because you saw fit to exercise your rights and privileges as a Democrat. To this doctrine I still subscribe and concede that in the Senatorial race you are, as a good Democrat, clearly within your rights in supporting any good Democrat for the Senate, although I and others may question the wisdom of your choice, and believe that the success of your of your candidate will not be for the best interests of the Party, or promote the welfare of your organization.

Having served twelve years in the House, discharge my official duties

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in a manner that promoted the public welfare, and having made a record which has met with general public approval, I was and am ambitious to enter the Senate where I believe my experience will enable me to better represent the people of our great Commonwealth.

In November, 1932, in a conversation in your office, you told me that if Mr. Howell did not enter the Senatorial race that you and your organization would support me. If you had in mind the support of some other Kansas City man for the Senate in the event Mr. Howell declined to run, you did not so state in your conversation with me, but said that in the event Mr. Howell was not a candidate you would be for me, against all comers. I was satisfied with your position and believed that only the possible candidacy of Mr. Howell stood between me and your endorsement, and so believing my subsequent Senatorial plans were formulated on the theory that I would have your support if Mr. Howell did not enter the Race.

In October, 1933, in your Main Street office,

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you again stated to me that if Mr. Howell entered the Senatorial race you would be for him and do everything in your power to bring about his nomination and election. You further stated that you could take a beating if you had to; that you had taken whippings in the past and could take another one if necessary, and would take one rather than abandon Charlie Howell. I stated you that, in my opinion, I could announce my candidacy and probably win over Mr. Howell, but that Charlie Howell was my friend and that I to run against him if I became a candidate for the Senate I wanted your support. You replied that if Mr. Howell

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was not a candidate, you would be 100% for me and would leave it to me to say when you should speak the word.

In December, 1933,

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In December, 1933, shortly before I returned to Washington, in a conversation in your business office, you stated that you would support me provided Mr. Howell was not a candidate and someone else from Kansas City did not enter the Race. In that particular conversation, you for the first time indicated that you might support some other Kansas City candidate in the event Mr. Howell did not enter the Race. Obviously, I was surprised and of course disappointed to learn that I would only have your support in the event no candidate filed from Kansas City. I then asked if Aylward would be a candidate and you said you had talked to Aylward, that you knew Aylward's plans and you were satisfied that he would not be a candidate. I then said, "How about Shannon?", to which you replied, "Shannon will not be a candidate; he will not be a candidate unless I say so and I will not say so", striking the desk with your fist. You further added that you knew how to control Shannon. I then said, "How about Senator Reed?", to which you replied, in sub-

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stance, that you had supported Reed in other contests and had been his friend for many years, but you did not think he should run for the Senate: that Reed had not asked you anything about running for the Senate, but if he would ask you, you would tell him that he did not fit in the picture at the present time, and ought to stay out of the Senatorial Race; but while you did not think that he should run, if he became a candidate, you would have to support him. Then I said, "Well, Mr. Pendergast, if your support of me depends on there not being a candidate from Kansas City, I might as well forget the Senatorship and run for Congress, because Kansas City will probably have a candidate.

For a year and a half, I have been convinced that Mr. Howell would not be a candidate for the Senate in 1934 and probably I should have made my announcement last year, or at least earlier last year and begin the organization of