

Tonight I sent you a night letter summarizing, almost in code, my conversation in Kansas City. Am sending Junior copy of this memo, and attaching to his copy a copy of my night letter. Am attaching to your copy several newspaper clippings relating to this matter, tho you may have seen them by this time.

Mr.P. stated he had received your letter, and that it was all right except you did not mention one important thing. That that was that just before you left for Washington you came to his office and stated to forget about your being in the Senate race, that you were not going in, and would run for Congress. That since that time the following had been in to see him: Meredith, Shannon and Hulen, -did not mention Hirth. That, as he had theretofore stated, if Howell ran, he would go down the line for him. That he was primarily interested in Kansas City, and would feel obligated to support a Kansas City man if he ran. Did not think Howell should run, but did not feel free to tell him so. That he felt free to tell Aylward and Shannon that this was not the time for them, -same as to Reed. Did not know Aylward's intentions. Had talked to Shannon, however, who wanted to run. Concluded that, to sum up, if Howell ran he was for him; if Aylward or Shannon ran, and Howell did not, would support either; if no Kansas City man ran, would support you. His final word was that would support Milligan under no circumstances.

Had asked Shannon if Milligan had sent him (T.J.) the message "I'm going to win and do not want the support of his organization and better get on band wagon". Shannon said Milligan had not, tho Milligan may have said, or told some one else, that he did send such a message.

Said Howell was to come and see him that day, but did not know if Howell would talk about senate matter. (However, Mr.P'S statement to press re supporting Howell appeared shortly thereafter)

Mr.P, did not mention Lexington or Moberly p.os. and I did not.

But I favor action, especially Lexington

Re Hirth: Think he is closely tied with Bennett and Tuck as well as Hulen. Hirth wants to run, all right. I think you had better wire him (unless there are some developments in the next few days) that while you wired him you would hold the matter in abeyance, you probably will not be able to wait until you return to Mo. to talk it over with him. That may draw him on to Washington. I hope you did not promise to wait to talk with him, - if you

did, start backing out at once, - need not commit your self finally in wiring him, but retract promise to wait, - why tie yourself up indefinitely?

I cannot escape the conclusion that Howell will not run, - doubt if Mrs. Halterman would have written you without his consent. I feel that he is withholding announcement to that effect in order to keep T.J. from having to support Reed or Shannon, - both of whom Howell detests. I think Howell is fairly friendly toward Aylward, but believe that Aylward will not run. Howell is friendly toward you. Shannon wants to run, and T.J. may have to support him.

I do not know what will come out of the St. Louis conference this week. And I cannot escape the conviction that you ought to announce NOW for the Senate. You will not have one bit more expense, nor a harder fight than the congressional one. I think your announcement would finally eliminate Howell and Shannon and would ultimately bring about T.J.'s support of you.

I feel that you are losing ground every day by inaction on the p.e.s. I think you should call for exams .NOW for Lexington and every other p.o. vacant, and should also notify the p.o. dept. to call exams for all others coming up, in plenty of time to make the permanent appointment immediately upon the expiration of the present terms. I was originally for the other method, but it is hurting more than facing the music and getting rid of these perplexing matters just as fast as they come. It would save lots of time. Furthermore, the fights over the acting postmasterships are getting to be as bitter, and as costly to you, as those over the permanent jobs. THIS IS SERIOUS, AND I URGE AN IMMEDIATE CLEAN UP OF THESE APPOINTMENTS, and grinding them out in the future as rapidly as possible.

Again, I urge that you start an immediate effort to get rid of every Rep. p.m. in this district, - whatever the cost, it could not be greater than what it is costing you not to get rid of them. Especially those that have long terms, as Boonville and Moberly.

I also think you should either introduce a bill or make a speech concerning the vets. I inclose some data re their demands that may be helpful. Furthermore, there must be some way of getting to the farmers what you have done in connection with the farm loan liberalization.

Either for Congress or the Senate, you are in a campaign that is going to call for a lot

of strategy. Hokum, if you please, but we've got to start pouring it. Nelson is plenty. People are discontented and in these times less inclined to be reached by appeals to reason than ever. You are handicapped by having to stay there, by having the pressure of legislative problems, by having to attend to much official business, job hunters, p.o.s, and what not. You can not make the personal campaign that Nelson is, for two reasons: (1) presence in Washington, and (2) even if you are here, you couldn't campaign, but would have to talk p.o. and jobs.

No doubt about the president retaining his grip on the people. He is IT, and you cannot afford to oppose him. You could whip the hell out of Howell, Milligan, Aylward, Shannon, or any of them on the stump, in dealing with the administration's policies. Your news letter is good, but I do not know how many are carrying it.

The reaction to Tuck's announcement is not good around capitol. Several Clark men resent Bennett's seeming attempt to dictate. Am convinced that Howell will not run, and that he is holding T.J. off to keep him from going to Reed or Shannon. Believe either Hulen or Hirth will enter. Doubt if Howell, Aylward, or Meredith will file. Shannon will not without T.J. backing. The situation seems to be shaping up now for some one upon whom rural sentiment of the old line demos. can concentrate. Cannot see that Hulen or Hirth fill that bill. Shannon being from K.C. will not fill it, altho is has strength in rural Mo.

The congressional race is not shaping up so good, as Nelson is very active. His propaganda about having the nomination cinched is bearing fruit, and is hurting us. I am in such position and am so busy that I cannot organize your campaign as it should be. It is getting serious, and I do not say this to drive you into the other race. However, I feel that you have as good a chance to go to the Senate as you have to return to Congress. I do not want to urge you, but it is my honest conviction that you have as good chance for the senate, with no more cost, and with less difficult campaigning, - for example, you will not have to consider p.o. matters outside of 2nd dist. when you run for senate. I feel that if you will announce soon for senate, you will get off with more than an even start; that ultimately T.J. will support you; that even if he does not, you have good chance to win. And its better to lose senarioial nomination than congressional, tho in either event, I feel sure the president, Friant and Farley will take care of you.

Talk is that Bennett is not so hot with St.L. crowd and that Hulen has tried to make

deal with them.

You Must answer T.J.s wire re Ramsey and Kelly. Also write him I wrote you re my conversation with him,-especially re his statement about your statement last conversation that you did not want be considered Senate race. You must have said something to this effect,- in any case, do not cross him in any way.

Have you kept in touch with Bob Johnson? If not, please do so. Also be sure let him know in advance if you jump into senate race.