

Washington, D. C. January 24, 1934.

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

Dear Mr. Pendergast:

From many parts of the State, I am urged to become a candidate for the United States Senate. Without any thought of boasting, I am sure that at this time, more Democrats in Missouri want to send me to the Senate than favor all the other active or receptive candidates combined.

In November 1932, you told me that if Mr. Howell was not a candidate in 1934, you would support me for the Senate as against any and all other candidates. I have been relying on that assurance.

In December 1933, when I called at your office, you stated that you would be very much pleased to see me in the United States Senate and that if Mr. Howell decided not to run, you and your organization would support me, and let me say the word when you should declare yourself. Later on in the same conversation, you said that if Howell did not run and Reed did, it would be very embarrassing for you not to support Reed, although you said you did not think he should run, that he did not fit in the picture at this time, and that you would tell him so, if he consulted you.

Now it is very obvious that Senator Reed cannot be nominated for Senator, and his candidacy will inevitably result in the selection of some out-state candidate, whose nomination may not be wise from a party standpoint.

If Mr. Howell decides not to be a candidate, in view of what you said to me in November 1932, I think I should have your support and the support of your organization, one hundred percent.

Mr. Milligan will probably announce in a few days. I think Mr. Howell should make an immediate decision so I may know and you may know whether or not he will be a candidate.

You assured me that Shannon would not be a candidate, and that you would advise him to that effect in such a way as to keep him out of the contest. It is also obvious that he cannot be nominated, for the candidacy of any person from Kansas City simply means the nomination of an out-state man who might be distasteful to the Kansas City

Democracy. This matter is liable to come to a climax within a few days and I would like to know definitely just what Mr. Howell is going to do, and what will be the attitude of you and your organization if Mr. Howell is not a candidate.

I have written Mr. Howell suggesting that he see you, and I will appreciate hearing from you in the next few days.

Sincerely,

M. C.