

Washington, D. C. February 22, 1934.

Miss Katherine W. Halterman,
Security Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Miss Halterman:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and in reply I will say that I am rapidly losing interest in the senatorship because I cannot escape the conviction that plans are now being perfected for the nomination of Mr. Aylward. All reports from St. Louis indicate that Dickmann and the St. Louis organization are urging Aylward to become a candidate and have pledged him the support of the St. Louis organization. There is a wide spread belief that Mr. Howell will decide not to become a candidate and that the Kansas City organization will sanction Aylward's candidacy and "go down the line" for him.

Those who are urging Mr. Aylward to become a candidate claim that he will have practically the solid vote of St. Louis and Kansas City. which they say with the vote he will pick up in rural Missouri will insure his nomination. Under normal conditions St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Kansas City and Jackson County cast not to exceed one third of the total democratic primary vote in the State. No candidate can win the nomination with the solid vote of St. Louis and Kansas city without getting a substantial vote in rural Missouri.

I am still of the opinion that rural Missouri will name the Democratic senatorial candidate and he will live in rural Missouri. To me it is inconceivable that the Missouri democracy will give both senators to the cities, I am sure that would not happen if rural Missouri presents a strong candidate, but, of course, if the out-state counties have several candidates thereby dividing the rural vote, the city candidate might win.

If I had received any definite assurance of support from Kansas City before this time, I could have had my strength in rural Missouri consolidated and would have encountered no substantial opposition, but I could not afford to take a leap in the dark and burn my congressional bridges behind me without some positive commitment from the Kansas City organization.

By the cold logic of events, I have been forced to mark time while rivals in rural

Missouri were preempting the field and consolidating their forces. I have about reached the conclusion that fate and the powers that be have decreed that my ambition to enter the Senate shall not be realized, not primarily because of any dislike toward me but because those who largely control the destinies of our party in Missouri are more interested in some one else. I do not speak in a complaining spirit, nor am I motivated by a feeling of bitterness or resentment, although, obviously, I am much disappointed. I have felt, and thousands of militant Missouri democrats believe that my long, loyal, and aggressive party service, my zeal for the welfare of the party and my record and accomplishments in Congress justified the hope that my party might send me to the United States Senate. But from the way events are now shaping themselves, it would seem that the controlling forces want a different type of leadership, although if certain individuals should receive the senatorial nomination, I am wondering who could lead the party and set the pace in the approaching campaign.

Milligan and Meredith are avowed candidates and either Hirth or Hulen will probably enter the race. With that set-up and with Kansas City presenting a candidate, it would be futile and foolish for me to waste time running for the Senate and I might as well accept the situation with equanimity and this I am prepared to do. In our complex political life, the individual counts but little and I am reconciled to the thought that if I live for a brief time in the minds of Missouri democrats, about all I can hope for is to be remembered as one who for fifty years loyally, efficiently and effectively served his party but failed to receive party recognition or honors comparable with such service.

The greatest mistake of my life was made when I abandoned a lucrative practice of law and became a candidate for Congress, and even now I am traveling rapidly toward the conclusion that I should cease chasing rainbows, quickly retire to private life and seek a little ease and comfort, neither of which I have had since I entered Congress. When I return to private life, which I may do at no distant date, I will not have a dollar, but I will probably be happier in a hut with a crust of bread, a jug of water and my books than if I continue the ceaseless grind that has been my lot for twelve years, especially in view of the fact, that these twelve years of unremitting labor and service have seemingly evoked little gratitude or appreciation from the party I so long served with singular devotion.

I have carefully reviewed the situation and reached the conclusion that I should not, will not enter the senatorial contest unless I am given definite promises of support that will insure my nomination, and there is nothing to indicate that these assurances will be forthcoming. Therefore, I am trying to be philosophical and not worry any longer over the senatorship.

I want you to know that I appreciate your friendship, your interest and your efforts to bring about a realization of my lifelong ambition to represent Missouri in the United States Senate, but seemingly, my path is blocked by insurmountable barriers.

Cordially and sincerely,

M. C.

RFL-cm