

Washington, D.C. April 15, 1932

Hon. John T. Barker Scarritt Building Kansas City, Missouri

Confidential.

Dear General:

Led by the Globe Democrat and Post Dispatch the anti-Democratic newspapers in the State, and some Democratic papers are trying to create an issue between the rural Democrats and the Kansas City organization. After the St. Louis Convention the Globe Democrat published an article stating in substance that Mr. Pendergast had announced his support of the entire Democratic delegation in Congress, existing in return a pledge that these Congressmen and their friends and Districts would whole-heartedly support the candidates for Governor and Senator indorsed by Mr. Pendergast. The Managing Editor of the Globe Democrat sent a message to Charles P. Keyser, its Washington correspondent, asking that he interview each Democratic Representative from Missouri and ascertain whether or not any of them had a pledge of the Pendergast' support and whether such support had been promised in return for an agreement on the part of the members indorsed to support the candidates favored by the Pendergast organization.

In view of the fact that these charges had been given wide-spread publicity in Missouri and inasmuch as Mr. Pendergast had vary generously offered to support my candidacy, I thought it only fair to Mr. Pendergast and myself to let the public know the truth, namely - that, when Mr. Pendergast promised to support me he imposed absolutely no terms or conditions, but stated that his support was without any strings attached to it. In order that I might not be misquoted I furnished the Globe Democrat correspondent with a typewritten statement which was published in the Globe Democrat on April 13t, together with statements from all the other Democratic Representatives from Missouri.

Mr. Pendergast frankly and voluntarily tendered his support and expressly stated that he was exacting nothing in return, and he did not directly or indirectly attempt to trade or barter with me, and no promise was exacted or given with reference to the candidacy of any other person. I think it manifestly unfair to Mr. Pendergast and the Kansas City organization for anyone to try and drive a wedge between the rural Democracy and Mr. Pendergast and his splendid Kansas City Democratic organization, for every Democrat

in Missouri who is familiar with the situation knows that the Kansas City organization has been and will continue to be the salvation of the party in the State. So far as I am concerned I am glad to have Mr. Pendergast's indorsement and I am not ashamed of it and have no apologies to offer for Mr. Pendergast's support of my candidacy. My great regret is that we have not a strong Democratic organization in St. Louis like the one in Kansas City.

I am enclosing the clipping from the Globe Democrat of April 1st which contains Mr. Keyser's interview with the Democratic members of Congress from Missouri, from which you will see that Cannon and Lozier are the only two members who stated that they had Mr. Pendergast's indorsement, although the Press has from time to time carried statements to the effect that two or three other sitting members had been indorsed by Mr. Pendergast.

I was a little surprised when I read Mr. Romjue's statement. You will recall having told me last fall that before Mr. Pendergast started to Europe he authorized you to write Mr. Major and Mr. Romjue tendering his support in their state-wide candidacy for Congress, and I understood you to say that you had written both Major and Romjue and that they had replied expressing their appreciation of this support. You will no doubt further recall that you told me that Mr. Pendergast said at that time that he would withhold a decision as to the other members until after his return from Europe. Mr. Romjue in his statement says that if Mr. Pendergast has indorsed him he does not know it, and that there has been no written or spoken word, directly or indirectly, between him and Mr. Pendergast regarding his, Romjue's candidacy, and that he, Romjue, has not made any effort to learn how Mr. Pendergast feels about it. I am wondering if I could have misunderstood you in reference to Mr. Pendergast having authorized you to write Mr. Romjue and Mr. Major pledging them the support of the Kansas City organization.

The newspapers have also carried the statement that Mr. Pendergast had pledged himself to support Johnson and Milligan, but their interviews do not so indicate. If any member of the present delegation has the promise of Mr. Pendergast's support, I do not know of any reason why such member should not freely and frankly so state.

I am wondering how far the Republicans and some Democrats will get in their efforts to create a schism between the Kansas City organization and the rural Democracy, but

as far as I am concerned I was glad to get Mr. Pendergast's pledge of support and am not ashamed of it. I wish you would write me frankly your reaction to the efforts of certain candidates to ride into office by making Mr. Pendergast an issue in this campaign. I ask that this communication be considered absolutely confidential and I know you will so treat it. I, of course, will treat your reply in strict confidence.

Sincerely, M. C.