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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

Washington, D. C.

July 21, 1937

Mr. J. C. Nichols

310 Ward Parkway

Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Appreciate most highly your letter of the Sixteenth, but it seems to me that the situation which you have described is a matter for the local authorities to handle, and if they can't handle it, it is the business of the Governor of Missouri to take care of it.

I think a great many of the people from whom I have heard have been violently opposed to Federal interference in local affairs, and I am very sure that if the President should undertake to order out the regular Army to maintain order in the State of Missouri, it would create an unheard-of situation. The Director of Police in Kansas City is the man to handle the conditions to which you refer.

I don't approve of that sort of thing, and never have. If you remember, I had an instance of it when I was constructing the Court House, and handled it by myself.

Of course, I think employers are, to some extent, to blame for conditions as they now exist. It has been the policy of a great many people to browbeat labor and cheat them. In fact, I have run into contractors in my experience, particularly construction contractors, who forced labor to pay back part of their salaries when we have insisted on minimum wages. Chickens like that eventually come home to roost.

I am convinced that the decent men on both sides will finally get control of the situation, and that the

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matter will then be settled for the benefit and welfare of the country as a whole.

I don't think we are on the verge of any kind of revolution except a revolution for the more equitable distribution of the good things of life, and I can't say that I oppose that.

Sincerely yours,
Harry S. Truman
HST/cb