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SAINT LOUIS
CABLE ADDRESS "FOLITE"

December 20th, 1930.

Delivered by T.J.P.

Hon. James A. Reed, Telephone Building, Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Senator:-

The newspapers say that Pendergast's men in the House intend to vote for H.O.Maxey of Butler for Speaker, and Gene Nelson of Hannibal as their second choice. I do not know how familiar you are with Maxey, but he has always been one of the bitterest anti-Reed men in the state. He was so bitter in fact that in 1924, when a lot of us were proposing to run Judge Graves for Delegate at Large as a Reed man, Maxey stated that as popular as Judge Graves was in Bates County, Bates County would vote against him because he had seen fit to endorse you. Maxey wan an antisaloon leader when he was in the House before, and I understand has been lobbyist for the Anti-Saloon League since he went out of the legislature. Gene Nelson of Hannibal has also been an anti-Reed man, and I don't believe it would be advantageous to our friends to have him in the Speakership.

I do not know whether you care to take this matter up with Tom Pendergast or not, but I do think it would be unfortunate to have a man who has always been adverse to our friends in the Speakership during this vitally important Session. Of course, I would like to see Elmer Jones elected. Tom Pendergast has always been for Jones, but I understand that he now has some feeling against him because he thinks Jones had me instead of Jim Pendergast to introduce you at the Sedalia meeting last spring. As a matter of fact, while Jones was on the Committee on Arrangements, he did not have a thing on the face of the earth to do with the arrangements, which as I understand it were run by Ed Villmoare and Curly Ristine. Of course I was glad to introduce you, but had nothing on

earth to do with this arrangement. I understand that the thought in putting me on the programme to introduce you was to have some one who was certain to briefly mention the Young Democrats' Jefferson Club without unnecessarily taking up your radio time, and the suggestion was made that it was desirable to have a person of some experience in order to assure that your time would not be taken up.

Jones and Nelson live in the same Congressional District, and Jones will have seven out of the nine members of that District. I feel confident that if he could secure the Jackson County vote he can be elected, and he would in all respects be satisfactory to our friends. Ed Villmoare can verify my impressions about the Sedalia meeting. If you care to take this up with Tom Pendergast I think it would be an excellent thing from the standpoint of our friends.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Your friend,

Bennett C Clark