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November 28, 1927.

Honorable A. W. Thurman,
Joplin, Missouri.

Dear Thurman:

Senator Wilson came into the office this morning and I felt warranted in frankly repeating to him the information you had given me,-- This particularly for the reason that I very sincerely hope you can interest yourself in his campaign. And the only way for you and I and a man like Wilson to do is to have no secrets.

He tells me,-

First: That he had thought it not good taste to go into McCauley's home County, but that he was strongly urged to attend the Press Association, and that he went there for that purpose, and felt it incumbent upon him, because of the considerations first herein mentioned, to not make a canvass of the town; that he accordingly went to the Hotel to talk with the editors, and tried to confine himself as much as possible to that sort of work. Of course, some people came in to see him and he talked to them, I presume.

Second: He was urged to see Frank Lee and some other people, but did not go to see them for the reasons above given, and for like reasons he did not go to see you, or other prominent Democrats.

Third: He did not go to Mrs. Blair's house. Neither did he see her, or communicate with her while he was in the city. He tells me in fact that he never in his life saw Mrs. Blair to his knowledge. I think what I have said clears up the situation.

Fourth: I have talked with Wilson, and I know he is going to run, and will make an announcement early in the year. And when he enters this race it will be with the express

understanding that he is going through to the end, regardless of all questions which may arise, or who his opponents may be.

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Wilson has spent weeks of time in going over the State trying to get in touch with Democrats, and trying to ascertain the state of the public mind. After having made this canvass he feels that he has a very excellent chance to win.

Now, I have only this to add, Thurman. First: It is not to be expected that I would get out openly and actively in the contest for the nomination for Governor. Indeed, I think if I were to take that course I would do more harm than good. But, I certainly can state to old friends like you how I feel, and what I think the interests of the Party demand. So, I want to say to you that I have known Francis Wilson for almost forty years. Before I entered the race for the nomination for Governor I had a long talk with him at a big picnic in Platte County. We lay out under a tree and talked about the probabilities and the possibilities. Joe Folk was in the race, and as I looked at the situation, he was making as much of an attack on the Democratic organization as he was on the Republican. It was that fact which impelled me more than anything else to try to get the nomination, and Wilson felt about the matter just as I did. Both of us wanted to keep the Democratic Party together, and not have it split up over factional issues. Wilson became candidate for Congress, and throughout his campaign for the nomination and for the election he unhesitatingly repelled the attacks that were being made on the Democratic organization, and consequently incurred the enmity of those who had been swept away with the Folk movement. Unfortunately, his health broke down at the latter end of the campaign and he was unable to finish it, and unable to keep on the platform. If he had been able to do so he would have been elected, in my judgment.

You will remember that there was a landslide that year, and everything went Republican, unless we count Joe Folk's election a Democratic victory, which I never did. But, notwithstanding the conditions, I feel Wilson would have won if he had not been sick. That

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was twenty-three or four years ago. Wilson's health today is as good as anybody's. He has been engaged in very arduous labor for the past six years in managing the street-car situation. And prior to that was for eight years District Attorney. So nobody need worry about his health.

He is a splendid campaigner. He knows how to talk the language of the people of the country. He is sound in all of his Democracy. And, since I started about talking of his personal relations with myself, let me add that from the day I met him to the present time Wilson has been one of my closest personal friends and most ardent supporters.

We have not agreed at all times on every question, and perhaps the same thing might be said of you and me. But, I can't expect you fellows to be right all of the time. However, in all important matters we have always been in agreement, and there is no man I know who is more devoted to the old fundamentals of Democracy than Francis Wilson. If we nominate him I think we will have a good, live campaign, with a live man able to defend himself and able to defend the Party on the platform of the State.

There is one other thing, which is very near to your heart, and to the hearts of all people who want to see decency in government maintained. Wilson's honesty is above challenge. If he is Governor of this State there will be no grafters or crooks around the Capitol, if the Governor can drive them out.

He is a splendid lawyer, a good speaker, and the only man mentioned upon whom it seems our kind of Democrats can concentrate.

What I would like to see you do, if you will do it, is to have you actively interest yourself in his behalf. I know the difficulties of the situation in your County. But, it may be they have shifted enough so that some who have been on the ether side of the fence can be brought into line.

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I presume you know that Mr. Pendergast has said that he will give Wilson his support, if he runs. And Tom always keeps his word.

I have talked with a number of prominent men in St. Louis, and I think he will have the support of a great many of the prominent men and women of that city.

I am sure he will have a very strong, if not a dominant following in St. Joseph. And, I hope my old friends throughout the State will for the most part support him. With this situation existing, I believe he is almost certain to win the nomination, and I think he has a better chance than any man who is now mentioned to win in the election.

One thing I will add: He will run as a Platte County man. He was born and reared in that county, where his father for many years lived and held a very prominent positions in the life of that district, representing it twice in Congress. While it is true that Wilson has actually lived in Kansas City since he was appointed District Attorney, he has always counted old Platte as his home, and his residence here has been purely official.

Well, this is a long letter, Thurman, but it is easier to write a long one than short one. I am going to be here, I think, until Wednesday night, and I would like very much to have a line from you.

Please treat this letter in that confidence and friendship which has so long existed between us.

Very sincerely,

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