

April 6, 1937.

Hon. Harry S. Truman,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator;

I assume that you know that the Governor has two places on the Workmen's Compensation Commission to fill in the near future.

One of these places will be a successor to Honorable Orin H. Shaw who recently passed away. The other is the place now held by Jay E. James, whose term expired last November.

As you probably know, the successor to Mr. Shaw must be chosen from the ranks of labor, while James' successor must be a lawyer, and at least one of these two places must be filled with the appointment of a Republican.

It is my opinion that the Labor appointment will be from the Democratic party while the successor to James likely will be a Republican. I am also of the opinion that soon after the Governor decides on the Labor appointment, the successor to James will be announced. I have it on reliable authority that James will not be reappointed.

As for the Labor appointment, the Missouri Federation of labor has recommended three men - Mr. Frank Murphy of Kansas City, a man named Sullivan of Sedalia, and a man named Lahey of St. Louis.

Perhaps you know that Mr. Murphy is State Secretary of the Missouri Federation of Labor; that Sullivan is secretary to the Young Democrats of Missouri, while Mr. Lahey is now a Referee on the Workmen's Compensation Commission.

In addition to the above mentioned three men, Earl H. Shackelford of Hannibal is a candidate to succeed Shaw provided that he can secure the endorsement of Congressman Wood. I am sure the Governor will appoint Mr. Shackelford if Shackelford can secure the endorsement of Labor, which, of course, will have to come through Congressman Wood, otherwise the Governor will make Ms selection from the three men recommended, namely Murphy, Sullivan and Lahey.

If the Governor has to choose between the three already recommended, I am reliably informed that the appointment likely will go to Mr. Lahey of St. Louis. I am confident that

Sullivan is not being seriously considered. The only choice is between Murphy and Lahey, with Lahey undoubtedly out in front.

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I understand that the Labor organization of Kansas City really is not anxious for Murphy to be appointed because they think Murphy is more valuable to Labor in his present position than he would be as a member of the Commission. However, the Labor organization here is not standing in Murphy's way to a possible promotion. I understand that Sullivan hopes to succeed Murphy if Murphy should be appointed.

My understanding is that Jim does not want this appointment to go to St. Louis and that he would like for Congressman Wood to endorse Shackelford. I assume, however, you have heard from him on this matter and that you are fully aware of his views on this whole subject.

I am giving you the above for your information and since Shackelford is such a close friend of ours, I am anxious to find out for him, if possible, if there is any chance for Mm to secure Woods' endorsement in view of the fact that as matters now stand, Lahey will be the likely choice.

I am anxious for Shackelford to get an appointment of some kind and if he cannot secure this appointment, then I want to ask the Governor to consider Shackelford for something else.

I shall appreciate it if you will advise me in this matter as soon as possible. This appointment undoubtedly will be made soon — possibly within the next week. If, after talking with Congressman Wood, you think it advisable for Shackelford to fly to Washington, please wire me to that effect and I will have Shackelford in Washington at such time as you suggest.

With personal regards, I remain

Very cordially yours,

WAK:GW

William A. Kitchen.