

May 16, 1938.

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

Dear senator.

Pursuant to your request, I discussed the United States Marshall- ship matter with General Keenan while he was in Kansas City for the Bar Association banquet.

From the statements General Keenan made to me I have every reason to believe that Fred Canfill will be appointed in the near future.

Here is the story more or less in detail:

Keenan arrived by TWA plane about 4:30 PM Saturday afternoon. We quartered him in the penthouse at the Muehlebach. He had a speaking engagement over WMF from 6:00 to 6:15. Charlie Carr and I took him to the radio station in a Cadillac sedan bearing state license number 10000. Enroute to the radio station I began plowing the ground by informing Keenan that I used to be connected with the United States Department of Justice as a G man. I made inquiries about Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Mr. Nathan and others connected with the FBI. I told him about my experience investigating the impeachment charges against Federal Judge George W. English of Illinois bank in 1926; that I investigated these charges for the House of Representatives in preparation of the trial which was scheduled before the United States Senate. In this manner, I established very friendly relations with Keenan.

My first opportunity to discuss the United States Marshall matter with Keenan came at about 1:30 AS Sunday morning in the penthouse. I told Keenan that with respect to the United States Marshallship at Kansas City, you had recommended a good man for the place, that Mr. Canfill is absolutely honest, capable and can be relied upon to do a good job in that office. I told him that when I was with the Department of Justice, I made several investigations of applicants for appointments such as this) that while I offer no criticism of the agent who investigated Mr. Canfill, I was surprised to learn that the agent did not interview General Stayton, the one man who could more than anyone else accurately appraise Canfill's qualifications; that General Stayton is now a Major General, having been recently appointed by President Roosevelt and that General Stayton rates Canfill as thoroughly honest, a very hard worker and an efficient array officer; that General stay- ton is able to give this appraisal of Canfill by virtue of the fact that Canfill

has served many years under him at a national guard officer. I told Keenan that I had heard that the investigation report on Canfill was not favorable. He denied this by saying that the report was not bad at all. I told him that I was glad to hear this and that I had no hesitancy in recommending Canfill and that I would not knowingly recommend a bad appointment to the Department of Justice. Keenan replied that he was very glad to have a report from me on the matter and he said that he thought the Attorney General wanted to appoint Canfill and that he, Keenan, was about ready to go through with the appointment. He stated that of course the Kansas City Star would raise a lot of Hell. I told him to let them raise hell, that we are used to that; that we never have any difficulty in defeating than in political campaigns. Keenan went on to say that we (evidently meaning Department of Justice officials) feel very kindly toward Senator Truman. He stated that you had been very loyal and that they felt that you were entitled to this patronage. The above is the sum and substance of the conversation that I had with General Keenan at that time.

Later in the evening after everybody had cleared out except Charlie Carr, Gene Brouse, Douglas Hudson of Ft. Scott, Kansas, and myself, General Keenan received a telephone call from Judge Ellison who was then at the Chesterfield Club with Charlie Miller. Judge Ellison reminded Keenan that he had promised to come over to the club and urged him to do so. Keenan decided to go over to the Chesterfield stating that he wanted to keep his promise with Judge Ellison. We then got into Gene Brouse's car and drove to the Chesterfield Club where we spent considerable time. The management finally cleared out all of the guests except General Keenan's party which included Judge Ellison and Charlie Miller and a special floor show was put on for our benefit. We were staying up with General Keenan until 3:40 AM when he planned to take a TWA plane back to Washington. While at the Chesterfield, Keenan began to make inquiries about the possibility of getting a plane later Sunday morning. He had me to call the air port for him and I found it was impossible to make reservations for the later planes desired. He concluded to go on the 3:40 plane. At about 2:45 we left the Chesterfield and drove back to the Muehlebach Hotel. When we got into the lobby he took a sudden notion to go to bed, saying that he would arrange transportation out of Kansas City in some manner Sunday. We all shook hands with General Keenan and bade him goodbye. I got him off

to one side and told him that I greatly appreciated his earlier statement to me about the appointment of Fred Canfill; that I felt sure you and Mr. Pendergast would greatly appreciate this appointment and that it would be very pleasing to the Democrats of Kansas City. His reply was that he would push this matter through right away and with this we parted.

I feel greatly encouraged and I have great hopes that this matter will soon be concluded as above indicated.

General Keenan delivered a very able address before the Kansas City Bar Association and his speech was very favorably received by all. Cy Crane, who, as you know, is a Republican stated he never heard a finer and fairer presentation of the subject involving the labor problem in all of his life. I should like to have a copy of this speech and I am suggesting to you that you secure this speech and have it inserted in the Congressional Record.

With personal regards and best wishes, I remain
Very sincerely yours,
WAK:GW
W. A. Kitchen,