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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE COMMERCE

Washington, D. C.

June 3, 1940

Mr. William A. Kitchen Attorney At Law 728 Delaware Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Bill:

Your letter in response to the telegram to be one of the guest speakers at the Truman Public Reception in Sedalia June 15, 1940, at Liberty Park 8 P. M. is indeed provocative of much thought. You emphasized many points as to how your appearance as a speaker may effect my campaign. I take it you were not concerned as to how it would affect others in the campaign.

Let me come to the point. I believe this is the time of all times to come out in the open. You have been invited to be one of the speakers to testify as to my patriotism. Your statements if delivered will be a tribute to a friend. Charges of other candidates, newspapers, and what not, do not concern us. We will be damned by those who want to

condemn whether we do or we do not a particular thing. The only question in my mind is what are we trying to do and what is the objective?

We are trying to reelect a United States Senator. We are appealing to all the people who will listen to us. We are presenting simple arguments. We are putting forth the straight record of Senator Truman. We are putting forth his homely qualities of honesty, dependability, and loyalty to a trust reposed in him. His past is the true beacon for the future. Some feel that he made good as a farmer, some as a soldier, some as a County Judge, some as a Senator. Nowhere along the line is there the slightest thing against his character, as man, as patriot, as public servant. What more do the people want for their Senator to be?

You are a good soldier who did his duty as the call of country came. Tell me would I or would I not be a cad if I turned down your request to come to a meeting and tell the people that you did a good job as a soldier?

The only issue is how would such a statement made by you concerning me react upon you? If you feel that your appearance will in anywise hurt you with Stark, naturally, I, as your friend, would not want you to be hurt.

Concerning the matter of Carr, we have thoroughly discussed that matter with him and he is willing to take responsibility. He is doing it as an individual. Since when in the history of our country has any individual been deprived of the right to express his personal views?

I want to thank you again for your very considerate and thoughtful letter, but it became necessary for me to express my views as freely and as unreservedly as you had done, that is the way between friends.

Sincerely yours,
Harry S. Truman
HST/ro