

From George J. Dodd to Harry S. Truman

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Greenwood Mo Jany [January] 23rd 1923

Confidential

Judge Harry S. Truman

County Judge Eastern District

Independence Mo.

Dear Judge,

I dont believe the selection of an honest well posted county counselor is of more importance to any Judge on the County Court Bench, than to the Judge who represents the great body of taxpayers in this rural district which you are trying your very best to properly represent. From inclosed clipping I am sorry to see the Pendergast

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wing of your party seems inclined to favor Judge Latshaw for County Counselor. He dont begin to compare with Mr A. H. Gossett as a lawyer & public spinted citizen. I have heard more democrats than republicans rejoice over Judge Latshaw being retired by public sentiment. Latshaw is a [MS. illegible] back number & too much of a patizan to safely counsel the County Court in this 2 year testing period where it is confronted with the mess that Bulger has dumped on this new Court, which seems so strongly inclined to serve the taxpayers rather than any political boss. Nor is Senator Cooper a safe man to lead their

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Court out of the Wilderness. For if so how is it he didnt keep the old Court from nearly mining your party in this County? I believe you will make no mistake for your own sucess & for your party, if you will steer clear of a mere political choice of a Co. Counselor and vote for a first class conscientious real lawyer like Gossett[.] Not a soul has spoken to me on this subject. I like both Latshaw & Cooper personally, but from experience as once a Judge in your Court, I know how much the Eastern Judge needs an honest com-

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petent Counselor to advise with. Of the two Dem. Factions of your party I would far prefer to see Mike Pendergast wing win out over the Shannonite. But your district next election is going to be controlled by the taxpaying democrats & neither Tom or Joe will be able to defeat the nomination of a Dem. Co Judge who has for 2 years stood loyally by the taxpayers. You were elected by 2700 mag & with a five record can help your party more by refusing to be mixed up in their dirty K.C. politics. You know I was on the Rep. ticket & am a republican, but your & I have for years been friends, & I want to see all three of you Judges make a good record for all the people of both parties. Yours truly Geo J. Dodd