

Form 620 Std.

Springfield, Missouri, May 7th, 1924.

Dear Harry:

I am not sure as to whether our friend Shelley is the proper man to listen too or not, and would not care to pass my opinion until we see what later conditions may develop. There is no question but what he has a number of friends through-out the County, but whether he is going to be sufficiently strong to go over or not is another question.

I do know that there is a split in the Goat ranks in this way, that he claims to have the support of Tom, or has the assurance of Tom that he will be for him. I also know that Tom is sending him to see Mike and has told him to keep in touch with Mike, and that Mike would be for him later on. Now whether this is a scheme between the two of them to pass the buck, I do not know, but, at any rate, it occurs to me that you being the one that is vitally interested, I would not compromise myself until I knew just exactly what the real conditions were.

I also understand that Ed Staton has the "Bee" in his bonnet. It is hardly necessary for me to comment to any great extent on Staton, as you know what he will do for his own interests, and if he thought for one moment that he could gain a little prestige by double-crossing anyone, he would do so. The fact of the matter is Staton owes the appointment he now has as Colonel of the 110th Engineers to myself, as I went to Jefferson City at my own expense and saw General Clark and made arrangements with General Clark, after I had consulted Staton, with reference to his being made Colonel of the regiment. And also, after we had received the sanction of General Clark, Dr. Slusher and myself lined up the officers of the 7th Regiment to vote for Staton. You are well aware of the fact of what he did to Slusher, and also, when I asked him for a commission in the regiment, while he did not say so in as many words, he intimated that I was not wanted.

There is another thing that they will pull on Staton if he attempts to run for Highway Engineer and that is, the letter he wrote back to Kansas City while he was on the border, instructing a member of the Highway Department to start investigation of some kind concerning the County Court, didn't make much difference what it was.

Another thing that I find, as a suggestion only, it might be well to look over all orders

that are presented by the Highway Engineer that has to be approved by the County Court before the work is done. The present Highway Engineer has been doing nothing but giving yourself and your friend in the county court a thorough double-crossing. I do not know how you can remedy this condition because I know that it is almost impossible for

the Court to inspect all work that is being done, but in view of the fact that you have a certain number of Road Overseers, it occurs to me that it might be well to have them keep check on the gentleman.

Getting back to Shelley again, he claims to be in a position to control the KK's. I dont know whether he can or not, but I really believe that you can get more information, which is reliable in my opinion, from O'Connor than you can from Shelley, or anybody else.

Please let me hear from you at your convenience what you think about conditions as they now stand.

With beet wishes, I am

Respectfully yours,

R. E. TRUMAN.

RET/w

Mr. Harry S. Truman,

Judge of Eastern District, Jackson County, Independence, Missouri.