

OFFICE OF
ROGER T. SERMON MAYOR
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

February

Fourteen

1941

Honorable Harry S. Truman United States Senator Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

Of course you know I will be glad to do anything I can for Mr. Henry Gould of Natkin and Company. You may tell him to call on me at any time.

I promised you I would not say anything more about the political situation here and I am not going to - except to say that things are in a hell of a mess and daily growing worse with, seemingly, nobody about to do anything about it. It appeals to me that Jim Pendergast has just simply quit.

I read with a great deal of interest of your activities in the Senate and they certainly meet with my approval. I think it would be a good thing to shake the boys up a little. I talked with John Gage today and he was very enthusiastic in his praise of your stand in the matter. He appeals to me as being a very fine chap and one whose acquaintance should be cultivated. The Democratic Party in Jackson County certainly needs men of his caliber.

I talked with the Postmaster the other day and he said he had not heard from you for some time and was going to write to you.

The Arms Plant is making very rapid progress and from my information is moving along faster than any in The United States. Captain Bell, who is to be Commandant, is a fine, friendly fellow who knows the score. It is keeping him busy between here and Bridgeport trying to get the material for the Plant. There is a noticeable increase in traffic around the Square, which indicates to me that we are deriving some business from the Plant, although the Unions have it sewed up tight. I hope this condition will not prevail when operating company comes on the job, as we would like very much to get some of our unemployed placed. Chasmer, the general manager, and Dorr the location man, assured me that it was the desire of the Remington Company to employ virtually all of their

people from the immediate locality. They see no reason for bringing more people here when we have 17,000 unemployed in Jackson County. These two men seem to be in full accord in this and if permitted they are going to operate along these lines. I think it would be the height of folly for the Government to demand that men in this defense program belong to a Union before they can get a job.

I have not seen Judge George for more than a month. Frank Robinson was in the other day and said that he was badly discouraged and very much up in the air. I told him I thought it was his own fault and he would draw no sympathy from me. Klaber seems to be doing a good job of running the Court - with the full consent and approval of Les, and the Rabbits are sure cocky.

I hope you are in good health. Please give my regards to your family.

Yours very truly,

Roger T. Sermon, Mayor

RTS/g