

Honorable Louis L. Emerson

Governor

Springfield Ill

May 20th 1931

Dear Sir:

I should like to take this opportunity of conveying to you my personal esteem and gratefulness for the courage and righteousness which you unquestionably displayed when you vetoed a law passed by the legislature of your state intended to repeal the enforcement acts concerning prohibition.

You are to be commended in the step which you took which is certainly deserving of the honorable consideration of every worthwhile reliable and respectable citizen in the great state of Illinois.

It seems to me that it would have been something of a disgraceful attitude for the state of Illinois to enact measures with the intention of nullifying Acts and Laws which are already a part of the Constitution of the United States and in direct contradiction to those laws.

Illinois is the commonwealth which gave to this Nation, a man whose memory is revered and honored by all the world, - Abraham Lincoln. Therefore: in attesting your veto signature to the forementioned law, you have done yourself honor and paid tribute to the memory of the great Emancipator.

We regret to acknowledge that to many states have had Governor's at the head of their government institution, - in the past, as well as in the present, - who ever are more than willing to assume the role of a Jefferson Davis for equally apparent, "rebel" legislatures. But, you refused to do so.

You have thereby shown yourself as sternly loyal to the Constitution of this great government: you have equally proven yourself absolutely uninfluenced by the lawless element and racketeer's: and it is very apparent that you are uninfluenced by the tainted underworld of debauchery and human agents of governmental destruction.

I wish my voice powerful enough to bring these statements to the ears of every person in the great state of Illinois over which you are its chief executive, or that it were possible to have my views published in every publication in your commonwealth.

The time has come when decency and respectability certainly must assert itself with sternness, determination, and with force, if necessary, in the interest of a higher state of morality and loyalty to the end that we may again obtain better social conditions and more respect for governmental machinery.

My dear sir: I greet you with pleasure for the step you took in vetoing this law designed to repeal various enforcement acts.

*James L. Munnell*