

From Hazel Autry to Ellison A. Neel

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Kansas City Mo.

3/17/38

Mr Ellison A. Neel:

After reading your true article in tonites Star I just had to write you a note & thank you for having nerve enough to voice your true opinion on the way our city has turned from democracy to "system" & want you to know that statement will be the means of scores of girls & women who will be able to vote the way they want to & not be afraid.

I speak from knowledge because we have been waiting for something to take place just like this. I & many other girls in Kansas City are victims of circumstances & have been unable to find employment & are not making a livelihood in the manner we are through choice & do to the fact of this system we now are only existing not living.

One year ago I opened a bath house to provide for my eight year old girl who was sickly & had to go to open air school & I was willing to pay off & so was my operators but I was not aware of the fact the "man" personally came to collect because I was told by a

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A party there had to be a go between. I learned after I was raided the first time the "man" had not been receiving any money. I was told then to go ahead & operate there would be no payoff anymore. To make a long story short, one month later I was arranging to have my girl spend her birthday with me she never lived at the bath house as I paid my sister in law to care for her in her home, we were in bed when I was raided again & held in jail five days & nites & my girl taken from me & put in a home. No charge put against me & not even did I appear in court. When I asked the juvenile judge how to go about to get her I was told I was to heavily indebted to care for her. So when I went to the party who is supposed to have had me released I was told if I could pay I could have my daughter. Well I could not pay as I had no position & no way to. And if I opened again I could not have my daughter so I was told at the Jackson County Parental Home.

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These people whom I am supposed to pay for releasing me are powerful enough to say "pick her up" & it will be done, but I remain indoors with the exception of one day a week for one hour I can go & see the only thing I am trying to hold on for, my daughter. This last raid happened the 16th of November and since then I have & am going through tortures that only a mother can know. I have worked on all elections I could & have done everything I could that was asked of me & they ask plenty.

If it will help you or anyone else to break this machine I will furnish names of the ones who demand so much & give nothing in return.

Please dont feel unkind towards me, I am pleading from a mother's standpoint to do all you can to let the people know they dont have to vote only the way they want to. especially the ones who are paying off weekly to merely have a bare existance & then to be treated so cruel.

(Please protect my name from machine)

Tel. Ha 9504

Respectfully

Hazel Autry