

March 18, 1938.

Mr. I. N. Watson,
Mr. Herman Langworthy,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Watson and Herman:

I want to repeat again some suggestions that I have made heretofore in regard to things that seem to me could be done in this city campaign with telling effect on the vote, if done reasonably promptly. They may already be underway; but this is just a written memorandum.

1. Make up a list of all the noon day speakers and night speakers and other speakers at meetings and chairmen of such meetings which have been held by the so-called Democratic Party. Then get up a statement of account on each one of them, in short statement form, something like this:

(1.) You have heard what Mr. John T. Barker had to say.

Here is the answer thereto and the reasons therefor.

He has drawn political salaries or fees as follows:

As Prosecuting Attorney in _ County, 4 years, at \$ _ per year, equal \$ _

As Atty General

As City Counselor

Fees from political App. In Ins. Litigation

Grand Total \$ _

(2.) You have heard what the silvertongued orator, Floyd Jacobs had to say.

Here is the answer thereto and the reason therefor.

He has drawn political salaries or fees as follows:

Salary as Assistant \$ _

Salary as Assistant \$ _

Salary as Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County, _ years at \$ _ equals \$ _

Fees as Public Administrator

Fees from political appointment in insurance litigation \$ _

Grand Total \$ _

(3.) You have heard what John B. Pew had to say.

Here is the answer thereto and the reasons therefor.

He has drawn political salaries or fees as follows:

Salary as Assistant _ for 4 years at \$ _ per years, equals \$ _

Salary as City Counselor _ for 4 years at \$ _ per years, equals \$ _

Salary as County Counselor _ for 4 years at \$ _ per years, equals \$ _

Perennial candidate for Circuit Judge

Son on payroll of city tax department

Salary

Grand Total \$ _

(4.) You have heard what Tom Phillips had to say.

Here is the answer thereto and the reasons therefor.

He has drawn political salaries or fees as follows:

Clark in the Probate Court \$ _

Father formerly on public payrolls for thirty years.

Grant Total \$ _

(5.) You have heard what Mitchell J. Henderson had to say.

Here is the answer thereto and the reasons therefor.

He has drawn political salaries or fees as follows:

Probate Judge \$ _

Fees in first insurance litigation

Total \$ _

(6.) You have heard what V. E. Phillips had to say

Member of legislature, et cetera

And so on for each man that has spoken publicly since the campaign opened for the so-called Democratic ticket.

Then take the lady chairmen speakers – Mrs. _ Curdy. Find out if she has had any fees or salary direct. Show that her brother, Preble Hall, is on the City's payroll as Director of Personnel, at a salary of \$8000 per annum and that her father was on the public payroll for twenty-five years.

Follow this on down on practically all these ladies.

The idea being to bring this list down to date, set up like an account, and get some men to use it as a speech and then have it printed in the Star, or get it printed in the Star without first being used as a speech. The idea is that one fell swoop will answer all these arguments that these mouthpieces have been making and give the public the inside into why they come forward every four years and undertake to put themselves and the rest of the people who are on the payroll back in office. It spikes their arguments, as it were. It shows their real motives and incentives and it shows it concisely and succinctly.

2. Another suggestion. Would it be possible to find out from the records over the last four years or eight years or better yet twelve years and set up a statement of account form something like this:

City and county contracts received by Pryor & Boyle during last _ years \$ _

(John J. Pryor and William Boyle are now and have been for 30 years associated in business with T. J. Pendergast)

City and county contracts received by Midwest Paving Company during last _ years \$ _

The take up the other political companies and put a little parenthesis under each one showing the political associations and Pendergast or other politicians connected therewith.

This is getting an account to the people of what these "Head Men" get out of politics. It shows why they don't care what is done to the general public of Kansas City and what becomes of the City itself as long as they get their salaries and fees and contracts, as they are.

3. Another suggestion as to two cartoons. Get Mr. Ray, cartoonist at the Star to draw a cartoon with this idea. Have some honey or gravy on a platter and have bees or flies or anything with wings eating out of it. Have these bees or flies labeled with the names of the parties in question, or if that's too realistic, have them named noonday speakers – keynoters – silvertongued orator, etcetera. Now depict those bees or flies eating honey or gravy for four years. Then label the honey or gravy public honey or gravy and have something to show that it comes from the money paid by the taxpayers. Might have a tank off to one side on the cartoon, full of gravy or honey, with a spicket and have the spicket turned by the "Head Men" and have the gravy running over to the platter where the flies and bees get it. Then show at the end of four years that the bees and flies all fly up and around over Kansas City and have a second picture of them flying around saying "We are the people; we have nice music; and have a nice hospital" et cetera. Different labels on different bees. Then down below where the insects are flying over have some putrid miasmas, crooked elections, another one of racketeering, another one of malicious destruction of property, another one where a business man is forced to buy from certain concerns, another one of a night club that has gambling and whiskey and prostitution, et cetera. There might be a third picture where these flies talk to the taxpayers and then have a fourth picture illustrating how the taxpayers have been hoodwinked and bamfuzzled and forgotten and the flies or bees all fly back to the gravy or soup or honey.

4. Now, another cartoon. Have one picture of a strong, vigorous man, illustrating Kansas City in its early years. Have another picture showing a strong vigorous man and the pores of his body visible, have some leeches on him sucking blood out of his pores. Have another picture where the leeches are

sucking more blood and the man showing a little weakness, - another picture where still more leeches are sucking more blood. Indicate that the blood is the taxpayers money drawn by the leeches in the way of salaries and fees. Then have one or two more pictures where the man get weaker and weaker and more blood is sucked until he is almost exhausted, which is supposed to represent present conditions. Then another picture showing the leeches thrown off and the man revived and beginning to stand up straight again and taking on flesh. Illustrate some way or other that this is by stopping of his being handicapped and exhausted in this manner and indicate that business thrives and new industries, new homes, new residences, new retail business, new wholesale business come in, et cetera.

Now, it seems to me that if these two above suggested cartoons could be gotten in the Kansas City Star or Times it would be worth a hundred speeches, because it illustrates the condition in a moment, to the eye of the reader, and it is the true facts.

5. Another suggestion. Could the Star be gotten to publish on one page all the editorials it has written about this present situation. If it could be gotten to do this that page would be read by everybody. So few people – very few – read the editorial page of any paper, especially where it appears next to the last page of the paper and after all of the sport news and the advertisements. It is the Star's own material, so it might be willing to do it. If it could be put on one sheet it could be passed around and reach everybody. I don't believe there is one man in a thousand, maybe fewer than that, that ever read the editorial page of any newspaper.

6. Another suggestion. See if you can't get the Post to not only put its editorials all on one sheet in one of its issues, but to put on the same sheet or another sheet altogether the articles it ran by Mr. Westbrook Pegler.

7. Another suggestion. Get two or three well known men in Kansas City, who have been here a long time and are acquainted with a lot of people, together, in compiling the list of names of citizens that is desired to have sign the statement that Mr. Logan was taking around recently. This statement idea is a fine one and would accomplish a lot of good, in my opinion, if a lot of prominent Democratic names appear first along with the names of prominent Republicans. If the names aren't reasonably well known men in their line, at any rate, or in their activities, it means nothing, because you can get 3000 names of Tom, Dick and Harry on anything. Of course, some men's names are not well known to general business, but are well known in the particular trade, like Herman P. Harbison of the Harbison Manufacturing Company is known to every business man in the West Bottoms and is known to all of the hardware trade. He started out as a youth, traveling for Richards & Conover, was with them for years and had his own substantial business in the West Bottoms for twenty-five years. There is W. D. Johnson with the Cattle Company, who has an office up town in the Fidelity Building. He is known to all cattle and livestock men in Kansas City and in the southwest, generally, and he has been in the livestock business here for forty years. These are illustrations. I believe they will sign such a paper. Then, the first man is known to all Southern Presbyterians in Kansas City and the second man is known to all Baptists in Kansas city. Now, if effort is given, I believe you can select a man like that representative of the Jews, also representative of the Catholics, also of the Protestants. In fact, men out in the various lines of industry. I don't believe I would bother much about getting the ladies to sign it.

There may be one or two other suggestions that I gave Mr. Watson a memorandum of several days ago. You might check that memorandum to see about additional suggestions, if they are worth anything. I know it is easy enough to suggest things. It is harder to do them. But if these suggestions are of any value, it may be that you will be glad to have them and it may be they could be carried out if they would be of value. I think they are all good. The one about giving the fees and salaries of the orators and "fronters" I think should be followed up every day or two days, if possible, in the same location in the paper. This is just a tab on these "apologists", as it were, and exposing their financial connection with this "System" and why they want to be put back in office. In other words, try to line up on one side the financially interested people in the "System", which incidentally includes (1)

the "Head Men", (2) the employees on the payroll, (3) the people who sell goods to the city, (4) the people that get favored tax rates, (5) the people that are permitted to violate certain laws, (6) all the night club keepers and habitues, (7) all ballot box stuffers and election thieves, (8) all prostitutes, et cetera.

Now, those are the ones on one side, we will say, and against them are all the other taxpayers and citizens of the town.

Yours very truly,
[Ellison A. Neel}
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