

7202 Walnut Street
Kansas City, Missouri.
July 3, 1939.

Hon. Lloyd C. Stark
Governor of Missouri
Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Sir;

I want to express my appreciation of your energetic and independent work as Governor. You have returned the Governorship to Jefferson City where we all hope it will stay forever. We hope that with the impetus you have given we can return Kansas City and Jackson County to the people also. We are well pleased with the new election set-up and with the police bill. I believe there is another important thing to be attended to and that is a redistricting of both the city and county for all election purposes. The North side can outvote us on the south west side consistantly.

One thing that should be stopped at once in Kansas City is the delegation of a police squad to escort a few theatre cashiers to the bank while most firms hire Brinks Express company. The police should not be expected to do that at public expense.

Another big help or boost could be given your new police setup if you could, some way, stop the issuance of "special" liseneces to the Kansas City political crowd. Any one with a 3-000,4-000 or 10-000 series lisenec in KansasCity can break any traffic law with sure immunity- the police just look the other way or get out of seeing distance. Many of these drivers (and their children) deliberately pass everybody at 45 or 50 mph on Boulevards, run stop signs and otherwise excercise their "priveledges". Please try to take these immunity signs away from them. I am highly in favor of the idea of giving the Governor #1 and the city manager #10,000 but not the manager's daughter #10-001. It should be a mark of public office and we should not at the same time give some North Side Italian the same kind of a number.

No Police Commissioner should retain office after having accepted a diamond studded badge from a Kansas City Jeweler who has benefitted financially and otherwise

from political connections.

The tax favoritism situation here is as bad as all the other things have been. Couldn't your state tax commission take a hand on the grounds that the state is losing revenue? In the block next to me, 71 to 72, Main to Grand, there are 104 lots in Cunningham Place and over thirty are delinquent. Another common trick is to sell or never take title to the footage between a corner house and the street on the side of the house and let it go delinquent and thereby save taxes and local improvement assessments. I can see three such places from my front porch. In Feb. 1938 I looked at three other homes nearby before buying this one. Last June I looked up the City taxes on all this neighborhood and all those were assessed about in line with mine. This June I looked at last year's books and find that the assessment on those three houses was completely abated. Jim Alyard's house (In his Mother's name) was abated from \$2700 to \$1600. I tried hard to get some abatement last year but had no success. My house cost me \$5400 and is assessed at by the county at \$4020 last year. There are houses in Armour Hills and in Rockhill Gardens that cost \$8000 that are assessed at no more than mine. This drives all the prospective home owners to Kansas.

Yours truly

Russell C. Cravens