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CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI BOOSTER MEMBER

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5162A PAGE BLVD.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

July 23, 1938

10:00 P.M.

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

Our Dear Honorable Governor:

Congratulations on the attitude expressed in yours of the 21st inst., and trust time will soon be available so special attention can be devoted.

It is not our idea to burden your time, by inviting your attention to several different subjects. We also realize that as Governor of our State, it is almost impossible to keep abreast of the 100 and one departments, and the maneuvers taking place over the State, in counties, cities and towns, unless you are correctly informed.

In our last letter, we spoke about the permanent registration in the City of St. Louis. House to house check of the City Registration was started yesterday covering the. 783 precincts. And sorry to inform you, this check was a waste of money and in the end means very little for the following reasons:-

Canvassers, called two clerks, one democrat and one republican were assigned to each precinct. They were instructed to ask at each residence for the names of the occupants and to check this information against the lists of registered voters. They were also ordered to avoid the old practice, sometimes employed in the past, of reading from

registration lists and asking if those persons lived at the addresses from which they were registered.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE DISREGARDED IN MANY OF THE PRECINCTS AND AS IN THE PAST NAMES WERE READ FROM THE LISTS AND THE HOUSEKEEPER ASKED IF THEY WERE O.K.

PERSONALLY checked behind canvassers in several precincts and in several instances, list were being read and where no one was home, like in a flat, others were asked if so and so lived there. If the party they asked was not sure, but thought so, it was checked to be O.K. Now just how much is a check up on permanent registration of this kind worth? Nothing accurate about it. Kansas City has been the laughing stock of the country how they voted them there and do hope your efforts in this respect there will prove to be a good correction. Now are we going to permit St. Louis to fall in the same category?

The P W A investigation recommended by your office and about to materialize, and trust it does not encounter the "White- Wash Brush".

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You have been speaking about the "SECRET BALLOT" and wish to invite this to your attention, for something should be done about it, for the following reason;-

A number appears before each name on the registration books. When a voter hands in his or her ballot, the same number that appears on the registration book is placed on the ballot. Therefore they have a record how each one voted. This cannot be termed "SECRET" hardly.

Talking with three voters tonight about 9:30 P.M., all workers on the W.P.A., and asking them if they voted would their ballot be a secret one, the answer was, "Hell No. They number each ballot and know exactly how we vote and if we disregard their in-

structions why you are fired". When asked who told them how to vote they all agreed to this effect—"The boss may not ask you directly to vote for a certain party, but the word will be passed along to vote for so and so and its just too bad if you donot do it". Asked if they knew of any one being layed off for not voting directly as told. They seemed to be of an unanimous opinion, several were layed off after last election for they did not vote as directed and a few never got back on the job or relief. This is a general belief of hundreds of P W A workers.

In view of these facts on permanent registration and the secret ballot, believe by all means, the numbering of ballots with the same number that appears on registration books should be eliminated at once and a general announcement made to all voters, that they will not lose their jobs for voting as they see fit.

Permit us to congratulate you on your efforts to rid our great state of several existing evils and we stand ready at all times to the best of our ability in aiding to make corrections long over due.

Sincerely yours

Chas. P. Johnson, President.

CPJ/e

P.S. Our little Association may be in the minority at the present time, but we are expanding and growing daily, and feel safe in stating we will be able to cast about 4,000 or more votes for Judge Douglas. Understand from a source considered half-way reliable plenty of Pendegrast money will be floating around here next week for Billings.