

June 16, 1937.

Governor:

The enclosed clipping tells a story that probably is the forerunner of a demand that I understand is to be made on you to send the Attorney-General to Kansas City to prosecute alleged state violations of the election laws.

A few days ago Fred Whitten of the law firm of Fisher, Whitten & Keyes told me that the Citizens League of which Whitten is president, is now circulating petitions demanding that the Governor send the Attorney- General to Kansas City to prosecute election frauds. Whitten says that they have no hope of getting W.W. (Tom) Graves, Jackson County prosecutor to act.

Whitten said that the petitions are now being circulated by a group of ministers and the wives of some of the Kansas City firemen who recently were discharged by City Manager McElroy. Whitten said that they expect to secure 50,000 signers to the petitions before presenting them to you.

I am informed that Tom Graves has become infatuated with the widow of John Lazia, slain Italian gangster. Tom Graves has been wanting to marry Mrs. Lazia but I understand that his brother, Ludwick Graves, has raised the devil with him about it. I also understand that Mr. Pendergast has called Tom in and told him that he must not marry Mrs. Lazia while he is in office.

I thought you might like to have this information and of course, I ask that you keep this strictly confidential.

ASK STATE VOTE ACTION

K.C. Times

DEMAND ON PROSECUTOR IS MADE BY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION.

6-16-37

Aid Is Offered in Resolution Which a Committee Will Present to W. W. Graves in Person.

After a debate lasting two hours and forty minutes, the Lawyers Association of Kansas City last night adopted a resolution demanding, in effect, that W. W. Graves, Jackson County prosecutor, take cognizance of the election frauds perpetrated in Kansas City in the November 3 general election.

Lawyers said "an overwhelming" number of their group, of which more than fifty were present at the University club, voted for the resolution. John F. Rhodes, vice-president, who presided, said five members of the organization would be appointed by Samuel W. Sawyer, president, to present the resolution in person to Mr. Graves. The meeting was closed to all except members.

The resolution itself did not mention the county prosecutor by name. Mr. Graves, despite eight vote fraud conspiracy trials in the federal courts as well as widespread publicity on tactics employed in the last election, has denied that fraud ever has been called to his attention. One member of the association is his brother, Ludwick Graves, himself chief of defense in one of the vote fraud trials.

The resolution reads:

"Whereas, the preservation of our form of government and continuation of our democratic institutions depend on a free, honest and uncorrupted ballot, and when government fails to assure and protect the fundamental right of free suffrage for all its qualified citizens, autocracy and dictatorship follow and democracy fails, now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Mo., that all those occupying public positions, whose duties are to enforce or cause to be enforced all laws affecting the conduct of elections, be and they are hereby requested to prosecute or cause to be prosecuted all violators of such laws, and be it further

"Resolved that it is the duty of all lawyers, as officers of the courts, to lead in the respect for and observance of all laws, and, therefore, the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Mo., does hereby pledge itself to take all necessary steps to aid and co-operate with all legally constituted agencies, to the end that honest elections be assured for the benefit of the citizens of Kansas City, Mo., and all laws be adequately enforced by such agencies."

The committee which Mr. Sawyer will appoint is to be instructed to report back to the association within thirty days, and describe the outcome of its meeting with the prosecutor.