

TO THE CITIZENS OF KANSAS CITY, JACKSON COUNTY AND THE STATE OF MISSOURI:

For your information the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Independent Voters League, of Kansas City, on Tuesday evening, December 7th, 1937.

WHEREAS, in a democratic form of government all political power is vested in and derived from the people, all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole, and,

WHEREAS, officials of Jackson County, who are charged with the duty of prosecuting violators of laws enacted for the preservation of these constitutional principles, appear to have placed the welfare of a political machine above the welfare of the people, and,

WHEREAS, the grand jury is an old and honored institution of democratic government, a "strong right arm" of the people, particularly designed to represent the people, protect their rights and enforce their laws in the investigation and prosecution of high crimes and misdemeanors against their peace and dignity, and,

WHEREAS, grievous, numerous and notorious violations of the right of free suffrage and of the honesty and sanctity of the ballot were committed in Kansas City in the general election of November 3, 1936, and in the registrations prior thereto, and, notwithstanding the lapse of more than one year since said general election, no effort, by the County Prosecutor or any other state or county official, whose duties are to enforce or cause to be enforced all laws of the State of Missouri affecting the conduct of elections, has been made to investigate and prosecute those guilty of such crimes, and,

WHEREAS, a grand jury has been summoned to convene in Jackson County on Wednesday, December 8, 1937, for the announced purpose of causing to be investigated the impaneling of petit jurors under assumed names, the sale of jury summons and participation of members of the Sheriff's staff therein, and,

WHEREAS, it has not been announced that said grand jury about to be convened will be charged to investigate said election frauds, and no previous grand jury convened since said general election has been so charged and summoned in time to permit it to make an investigation thereof before the end of the respective court terms for which such previous grand juries were convened, and,

WHEREAS, said grand jury now to be convened will be entirely dependent upon the County Prosecutor's office for legal advice and assistance in the performance of its duties and upon the County Sheriff's office for the summoning of its witnesses, and,

WHEREAS, it is believed by many thousands of citizens that said County Prosecutor's office and said Sheriff's office yield their loyalty and fidelity to a political machine rather than to the people of Jackson County, and will sacrifice the public good in service to the machine,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, by the Independent Voters League that its Executive Committee be directed to communicate to the grand jury about to be convened, in behalf of the people, the advice that said grand jury by Section 28 of Article II of the Constitution of Missouri, once it has been convened, has upon its own initiative power to investigate and return indictments for all character and grades of crime. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that said grand jury be advised that it may request the Governor of Missouri to direct the Attorney General, or one of his assistants, to aid the Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County in assisting the grand jury in its investigation, and that the Governor has the power, under Section 11237 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri of 1929, to direct the Attorney General to render such assistance. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that said Executive Committee request of the said grand jury, in behalf of all the people, that it investigate all violations of the election laws to the end that those guilty thereof be brought to justice, that further violations in the approaching City elections may be prevented, and that the people be protected from further injury and humiliation occasioned thereby. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that said grand jury be requested to commence said investigation, and if it has insufficient time to complete the same, that it recommend to the Circuit Court of Jackson County that a new grand jury be summoned to convene at the beginning of the January, 1938, Term of said court for the purpose of making said investigation, and that if it finds that funds are not available for said investigation, that it recommend and request of said Circuit Court and of the County Court that funds be made available for said purpose to the end that the people may be protected in the approaching City elections. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that said grand jury now to be convened be informed that violations of the election laws of the State of Missouri were admitted by certain members of the said political machine and others in the recent trials before the United States District Court in Kansas City, and that evidence of said admissions or information leading thereto is readily available and may be obtained by requesting the United States District Attorney, Honorable Maurice M. Milligan, to appear before said grand jury. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that the said grand jury be informed that the Committee on Honest Elections of the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Missouri, reported to said Association on November 12, 1937, the results of a careful study of fraudulent registration, in which it found that at the time of the general election on November 3, 1936, approximately 50,000 names were on the registration books which should not have been there; that said committee made a detailed study of the "padded" registration in the eighth precinct of the second ward, finding a "pad" of between 400 and 500 names in said one precinct; that said committee collected and has in its possession detailed information as to the persons acting as judges, clerks, and canvassers in this precinct at the intermediate and general registrations of June 18th and September 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th, and the canvass of September 25th and 26th, and at the primary and general

elections of August 4th and November 3rd, 1936, respectively; that evidence gathered by said committee is ready for submission to the grand jury and the same may be obtained by summoning the members of said committee, who are Messrs. W. F. Woodruff, the chairman, Paul V. Barnett, Henry M. Beardsley, D. J. Haff, and Omar E. Robinson, all well known citizens of Kansas City. Be it further:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Independent Voters League convey to the said grand jury the information and requests in these resolutions contained by writing addressed to the foreman and each member thereof.