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Dear Governor:

Here are a few of the things of seven years ago that come back to my mind. Of course you realize that these statements are more suggestions for investigation, leads, than anything else. Nothing that I know now would constitute acceptable evidence in any court in the land. But these things could well become the basis upon which to build admissible evidence.

Probably this will come under the head of carrying coals to Newcastle, for your investigators no doubt already have tapped these veins long ago and have proved or disproved what follows. However, just as a matter of double-check, as it were, and to fulfill my promise to you, here goes: —

1-- When Johnny Lazzia was in full flower he had (a) a soda water works, (b) a laundry, (c) a direct connection with a building material year, possibly Welsh-Sandler.

(a) Merchants who sold soda pop had to buy from Lazzia's concern or they were visited by inspectors from the health dept., their places of business found unsanitary and they were closed up, fined, or allowed to continue. The latter only in case they realized the greater flavor and better product of the Lazzia enterprise. In some cases the health inspectors were followed by building inspectors who also found distressing faults in the building which made it necessary to condemn the property and order the owner to tear it down.

(b) About the same thing here except in this instance all merchants and businessmen, who were not too strong, sent their linen to Lazzia's laundry or were visited by health and/or building inspectors.

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(c)-- "In this instance the builder, contractor, owner, could get a building permit and a minimum, at most, inspection if he bought his cement, brick, tile, gyp, etc., through the right party.

2— The Red D Mix plant used at one time, at least, considerable raw dust in place of

cement. Raw dust costs about 1/2 l/4th cement, I believe, and is nothing more than pulverized limestone rock. It is cement in the first stage before it is run through the kilns. Cement, as I recall it, cost about \$2.02 a bbl., and raw dust about \$0.90 when I first ran into the little business. When yards of cement are being mixed a proper amount of raw dust could bring into the coffers of a central mixing plant a considerable extra profit. And the concrete would test fairly high ---, enough to pass the right inspectors. A check of jobs supplied in the winter of 1929-30, I believe, might show thru chemical analysis that the raw dust how has weakened the concrete. I'm not sure this could be determined.

3 -- Contractors, bldg and road, kickedback on highway and big bldg jobs. There was a ring that split up the business, the designated member of the ring getting the turn at submitting the low bid and the other members putting in what we called complimentary bids. If an outsider did get in by some chance, he either was disqualified for failure to make bond, or for some other trumped up reason. As I recall it Midwest was Billy Boyle's outfit and had, more or less, the say. Carter-Waters had a lot of business and came up mighty fast to their present importance. As for the kickbacks, why not talk to Bill whats-hisname-who went to K.C. from St. Joe, as engineer in charge of the Jackson County highway improvement. I've forgotten his name although you mentioned it here. Also Edward J. Elf (spelling may not be quite right) of Quincy, Ill., Atkinson Const. Co., of N. or S. Dakota, Murray Sparks or Murray Wendel, I think that was his name, might be able to tell considerable about the
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kickback. Elf got some of the Jackson County work, I think it was the Belt Line piece, and they put him thru the sweatbox for nosing out the favored local outfit. I had that one sold and lost most or all of it because, because, because.

4-- Pendergast was, I believe, agent for Atlas beer during prohibition. All speakeasies had to use it or they went out of business. Lazzia was said to have taken that bit of graft from Pendergast before he got his.

5-- Road bonds were written by one outfit that had right connections but I've forgotten the name as bonds were not part of my worries. As I recall it one or some of the

Pendergast or/and Boss kids were associated with the firm.

6-- Builders, even of small homes, had to buy their building materials through Welch-Sandler or — Bldg Inspectors would descend. This business was divided a little until the depression made the total too small for sharing.

7— Many of the big builders — developers of large tracts --- were given unusual leeway because they were in right. Building laws were overlooked in some instances to the extent the favored could make more profit competing with less fortunate builders or could undersell them and still make the same profit as the honest competitor.

8-- Certain developers of real estate got city services such as water, sewerage, etc.; lines were laid for some and not for others, for a price. J.C. Nichols might know about this — maybe. He fell out with Pendergast on a matter of a highway several years ago. Or so I understand.

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9 — Red D Mix enjoys, or did enjoy, considerable business that would not otherwise have come to it if it were not for those pesky building inspectors and the necessity of getting building permits.

10 — Loans for building also were connected with the ring in some instances, at least# The late Mr. Kemp of the Commerce Trust, wasn't it, might have been able to enlighten you on that.

Now some of these people have passed on to their just reward --- Lazzia for one --- but I'm inclined to believe the enterprizes were lucrative enough to attract successors to take them over.

By the way, after I came here I heard that the political mob had gone into the ice cream business. As I recall it, the mob took over, was there as Castle Co., and dipped into the business.

Pilling station permits were not difficult to get if you knew the right parties; hard if you didn't. Jay Wilson, district mgr of Standard Oil KC district, might be able to enlighten investigators on that.

Perhaps you had better not mention my name to Wilson, if you ever follow this. I

wouldn't mind identifying other businessmen who might have tales to tell if I had their okay first, but I don't feel like figuring friends of mine who might not wish to become mixed up in the involved and stinking mess.

I suppose there are many other rackets, some that I knew of and forgot, many that I never heard about. Knowing how that bunch thought, I wouldn't be at all surprised if some particular distiller or brand of liquor was found more often than any other on liquor shelves in KC.

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Are the floating crap games still going? There were two kinds when I was there, the permanent ones that paid off with plenty, and the little floating ones that paid the cop on the beat, The cop was poor protection though, when the big houses put on the heat. The small floaters were constantly reminded they were small fry and who was boss. Is Green Gables, or whatever it was called just outside of North K.C. still going?

There was quite a lot of taking in connection with the issuance of various kinds of license — I know directly only about licensing engineers and firemen. I suppose the same thing went for plumbers, electricians, etc.

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