

MAJOR GREGORY VIGEANT, Jr.
205 East Winthrope, Rd.
Kansas City, Missouri.

August 9, 1940

Board of Election Commissioners
Jackson County Court House
12th and Oak
Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. J. E. Woodmansee, Chairman
Mr. Lewis Ellis, Secretary
Mr. Paul G. Koontz, Member
Mr. Bruce Forrester, Member.

Atten: Mr. Woodmansee

Gentlemen:

To say that I was surprised on election day, August 6, 1940 on casting my ballot in precinct 23 of the 8th Ward, which was formerly the 26th precinct, is expressing it mildly. When I found that although part of the condition that I wrote you about on July 9, 1940 was cleaned up but that some of the others were still in the saddle astounded me.

As I mentioned in letter of July 9th, 1940 this situation has been brought to your attention since March, 1940 prior to the April 2nd, 1940 city election.

The situation that the voters in this precinct object to is on record in the Board of Election Commissioners and in fact I was given additional information regarding the conditions in this precinct by Mr. Jack Swift, who is Mr. Forrester's assistant.

On election night when I phoned Mr. Woodman see expressing my amazement that nothing had been done, he told me that he wanted me to appear before the Election Commissioners and file charges. I told him that it wasn't my place to do this that the Board had the evidence and that everyone knows what happened in the 1936 primary and I believe also in the 1936 national election; that William Lowman, his wife and brother-in-law voted from a residence in this precinct.

To verify this all you have to do is look up the pole books unless phoney names were used.

It was in the 1936 primary election with the pad of 125 votes that Captain Charles Griesa, Senator (Cap) Manville Davis and I found that a dead man and his wife in this precinct had been voted. After we discovered this, in examining the pole books, we found that these names had been erased but the ballots were still in the box. These ballots will tell the story, it might also be the case that the Lowman's

Board of Elections Commissioners.

Page 2-

names are erased from the pole books or the phoney names but in this case the ballots will tell the story also.

The voters in this precinct and the workers at the poling place are complaining that the man from whose home the pad originated was an election judge in this precinct and on discovery of these facts he was removed as judge in this precinct but we are advised that he is working somewhere else.

In this last election and since his removal his wife has been working as clerk in this precinct.

As I mentioned to Mr. Woodmansee and Mr. Forrester in the April 2 city election it

wouldn't be possible for me to vote a pad from my house or place of business without my wife knowing it. Mr. Woodmansee also said that he felt that his wife would know about it and that it wouldn't happen from his home anymore than it would happen from mine.

This SMELLS TO HEAVEN and has been going on for years and the election board were advised of it on March of 1940.

I was very much amused on going to cast my ballot August 6, that I was challenged by J. V. Hill, a machine man, in a very loud and belligerent tone and stated that I had attacked the "lily-like" name of this good woman.

I merely stated that I never attack the name of any good woman.

The amusing thing of this whole challenge is that I have nearly always voted the Democratic ticket locally as I am from Illinois and sometimes a Republican nationally and have always been governed in my voting for local candidate by information furnished me by fine, honest, native son, local Democrats.

As I stated in my letter of July 9 there is a general opinion and everybody feels that at these same conditions are existing in all Kansas City and it is indeed disappointing to the citizens of Kansas City that although you election commissioners have improved conditions that you have not been able to improve them enough; that you maybe are being double-crossed or fooled by certain members of your organization. There is no doubt that certain members of your organization are indebted to and tied to the machine and perhaps, even though they would like to cut all strings, they are still being bulldozed and threatened by machine tactics with the loss of business, raising of taxes or possible bodily harm that they revel in.

It is indeed a shame that after all the work that has been done in cleaning up Kansas City that the machine, due to there conditions and the lack of interest of the voters should again be in possible position to return to power.

Very sincerely,
Major Gregory Vigeant, Jr.

GVJr;MF