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1415 COMMERCE BUILDING

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Nov. 2. 1940.

Hon. Lloyd C. Stark.

Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Governor Stark—

I have prepared a general resume of the activities of the Election Board with respect to canvassing and checking against fraudulent registrations and send it to you herewith. I am sending it to the mansion special delivery because I know of your genuine interest and desire to communicate the information prior to the election.

We are still checking intensively certain precincts where the draft registration indicates a possible disparity.

I have been discussing these matters with Bill whenever opportunity

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affords.

I hope our activity which is briefly reviewed herewith is such as meets with your hearty approval.

I am exceedingly unhappy that your name is not on the ticket next Tuesday. Your name would be a great asset to the ticket.

If I can be of any help to you in any matter please call upon me.

Cordially yours

Paul G. Koontz

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MEMORANDUM AND ANALYSIS CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN KANSAS CITY.

In conducting and checking the registration for the November 5, 1940, general election, the Board of Election Commissioners of Kansas City has devoted unceasing thought and effort to enable every qualified voter to register and to help him retain his status as a registered voter, with a minimum of inconvenience to himself. There have been times, during the rush incident to the close of registration, when citizens seeking to register experienced some delay. This delay and inconvenience was regrettable but it was inevitable due to the fact that on some days two or three thousand persons were seeking to register or reregister, and it was necessary to check their identification and our records with respect to these voters. Our checking for inaccuracies or "pads" has been continuous.

Our office has been continuously checking the records for the purpose of eliminating aliens or convicts.

The death notices and vital statistics are constantly checked against our records for the removal of names of deceased voters.

Registration closed on October 12, This was followed by a clerks' canvass on October 13 and 14, which resulted in clerks' strikes of approximately 9,000. This

small number was undoubtedly due to the fact that the precincts had been canvassed by the clerks three previous times during this year, the last time in July, Thereafter, Board and party strikes were filed against approximately 500 additional who apparently did not belong on the registers.

After strikes, it appeared that our registration was approximately 10 per cent over our registration for the August, 1940, primary. It was approximately 5200 less than the

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registration for the 1936 general election including Court orders.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether the increased registration included a "pad", the Board set about a special investigation in the following respects:

(1) Any doubtful cases which came to our attention from any source, and there were a considerable number of these, were promptly investigated by trained and trusted investigators from our office. A number of instances were found where it appeared that the name was improperly on our books. In most instances, it represented an actual person whose residence or length of residence was in dispute. No cases of registration of fictitious names or duplicate registration were found.

(2) A number of the precincts, particularly in the Second Ward, showed a light strike as a result of the clerks' canvass. For example, there were a few instances where the results of the canvass showed only 10 to 20 strikes. We checked these figures carefully for any evidence of an inefficient canvass, and selected 37 precincts, most of them being in the Second Ward where the number of strikes appeared to be unduly low. We sent trained investigators from our office to recanvass these 37 precincts with instructions to canvass them thoroughly. In some instances, they found that the clerks had either overlooked or been misinformed concerning a number of names which should have been stricken. In these instances, the clerks were called to our office and the matter was presented to them. In most instances, it appeared that the mistakes were due principally to the fact that the householder had either intentionally, or through misunderstanding, failed to give the proper information to the clerks. The recanvass disclosed a number of voters who

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had moved since the clerks' canvass which, of course, was not chargeable to the clerks. The result of the recanvass in these 37 precincts was the removal of 187

additional names. It is possible that a few of these instances may be borderline cases, and if the voter appears on the day of election and demonstrates that he is entitled to vote from that address, he will, of course, be permitted to do so. It must be understood that in the area involved, there is a heavy transient and rooming house population.

(3) We have examined the increase in registration in an effort to ascertain whether any particular spots showed an extraordinary or suspicious increase. We examined the statistics as to the precincts which in years past showed a "pad." There appeared to be nothing disproportionate or extraordinary about the increase in these specific localities.

Mr. Lester Seacat, who has given special attention to the statistics of registration and elections, devoted scrutinizing attention to the problem, and in collaboration with the Board set up the increase in registration by wards. Our final figures as of October 31, 1940, showed a total registration of 217,786 voters which represents an increase of 20,435 over the August registration. That is to say, the present registration represents an increase of 9.39%. The locality of this increase has been studied by wards and by sections, and an analysis is set out in sheets attached hereto. We likewise made up a ward map of Kansas City, on which the wards showing an increase of more than 10% appear in red. The analysis shows that the percentage of increase was greatest in the Seventh Ward, with a percentage increase of 14.38%. Next, in order of increase, were the Sixth, Fourth, Fifth, Thirteenth, Second, Eighth and First in the order

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named. The four wards showing the highest percentage, the Seventh, Sixth, Fourth and Fifth Wards, include the large apartment and family hotel areas of Kansas City. They naturally receive a larger share of citizens who are not permanently located, who are not householders in Kansas City. The Fourth Ward and the Second Ward contain a rather heavy colored population. There has been considerable activity on the part of party workers in both of these wards in securing registration.

It is worthy of note that the First, Third, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Wards, which a few years ago showed an extraordinarily large registration, all show a percentage of less than the average throughout the city. The percentage of increase in the Eleventh Ward was only 5.2%.

Taking into account the fact that there has been a general increase in registration in all cities because of the great interest in the Presidential election, the increase in registration in Kansas City is not extraordinary. Taking into consideration the fact that the places where trouble could be expected if there were any organized efforts to "pad" do not disclose any disproportionate increase, it is the opinion of those who have examined the analysis, and who are experienced and

familiar with the solution of these problems, that the increase in registration is not indicative of a "pad" in our registration*

(4) We have invited any citizens having any information or suspicion concerning any localities where a "pad" might exist, to provide us with a list of such locations or give us such information in order that we might give special attention thereto. We have been provided with a considerable list of places in the First Ward where trouble is reported to have been

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experienced in the past. We have taken our registration lists and examined them and checked them against the hotel lists, have recanvassed a number of places, have attempted to make a searching analysis of the names and numbers registered from such locations, and have invited our informants to do so. We are advised by our informants after an examination of our records, that there appears to be no specific evidence of a "pad." This is not to say that there may not be isolated instances where a person's name is improperly upon the books, either because his residence is not in Kansas City, or for other reasons which we or our clerks have been unable to determine, but it appears that such instances have been reduced to a comparatively small number. We believe that our checking and rechecking, although it has not disclosed any serious situation, has served a salutary purpose as indicating that the Board is definitely on the alert to keep our registration books pure.

(5) As another means of checking our records, we have undertaken to go through our books and note the names and addresses of all men registered who were between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, at the time of the registration for the draft October 16. We have undertaken to check these records throughout the entire city against the records of the men who registered for the draft. We were of the opinion that if there was any extensive "pad", it would be disclosed by a considerable number of names on our books eligible to register for the draft who had failed to do so. Our comparison of records is not complete. It represents a very difficult task to compare and check all of the names. There are necessarily some discrepancies because of the fact that many men registered away from Kansas City, and

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in many instances, their cards have not been returned to Kansas City. There are also some who were exempt, such as men already in the military or naval service.

There were numerous instances, particularly in the Second and Fourth Wards, where the voters registered in some precinct other than their own, and where there is some variation in their names or transposition in their given names. Allowance must also be made for some cases of removals and others who preferred when they registered for the draft, to register at their old home community* Allowance must also be made on account of the fact that there is a natural percent of error in checking names at our office when we do not have a master list of registrants for the draft. Specific statistics are not yet available, but we have checked certain wards where the percentage of discrepancy seemed to be higher than in other wards. We have then taken the precincts in such wards where the discrepancy at first appeared to be suspiciously large. While our search is not complete, it appears that upon canvassing for the men whose names were not found on our draft list, a legitimate reason appeared, and in almost every instance, so far as our search has gone, it has developed that the man shown on our books had either registered elsewhere for the draft or that some specific reason existed. In a few instances, it appeared that the voter had not given his correct birth date on registration. In a few others, the party had moved between the close of registration and the time for registration for the draft* Instances of a specific nature after the completion of such canvass have been reduced to such a negligible number as to cause us to believe that a complete canvass of the entire city will disclose that we do not carry on our books any significant number of names of persons who do not actually exist.

We are still actively engaged in "spot" checking.

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COMPARISON OF REGISTRATION IN KANSAS CITY, MO.
FOR AUGUST PRIMARY AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS

IN 1940.

Final	Final	Increase Percentage
Pre-election	Pre-primary	from Primary of increase
Nov. 1940	Aug. 1940 to election	Aug. 1940 to
Nov.		

Total Registration	217,786	197,351	20,435	9.39
North Fight Wards	101,552	92,990	8,562	8.42
Northwest Four Wards				
First	11,935	10,818	1,117	9.39
Second	13,050	11,737	1,313	10.11
Third	10,173	9,484	689	6.79
Fourth	13,823	11,939	1,884	13.66
48,982		43,978	5,004	10.25
Northeast Four Wards				
Ninth	12,400	11,430	970	7.92
Tenth	13,469	12,597	872	6.46
Eleventh	13,165	12,484	681	5.20
Twelfth	13,537	12,501	1,036	7.70
52,571	49,012	3,559	6.79	
South Eight Wards	116,234	104,361	11,875	10.24
Southwest Four Wards				
Fifth	11,654	10,100	1,554	13.28
Sixth	10,618	9,160	1,458	13.75
Seventh	13,839	11,866	1,973	14.38
Eighth	18,651	16,888	1,763	9.48
54,762		48,014	6,748	12.31
Southeast Four Wards				

Thirteenth	12,724	11,175	1,549	12.20
Fourteenth	13,330	12,154	1,176	8.84
Fifteenth	18,953	17,704	1,249	6.58
Sixteenth	16,465	15,314	1,151	7.00
61,472		56,347	5,125	8.55

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ANALYSIS OF INCREASES IN REGISTRATIONS IN
 KANSAS CITY, MO. BETWEEN AUGUST PRIMARY
 AND NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTIONS IN 1940,
 ON A PERCENTAGE BASIS

	Increase in Percentages	Increase in Numbers
Total Registration,	9.39	20,435
Ranking of Halves		
South Eight Wards,	10.24	11,873
North Eight Wards,	8.42	8,562
Excess in South Eight Wards,		3,511
West Eight Wards,	11.48	11,752
East Eight Wards,	7.63	8,684
Excess in West Eight Wards,		3,068

Ranking of Areas

Southwest Four Wards (5, 6, 7 & 8)	12.31	6,748
Northwest Four Wards (1, 2, 3 & 4)	10.25	5,004
Southeast Four Wards (13,14,15 & 16)	8.33	5,125
Northeast Four Wards (9,10,11 &12)	6.79	3,559

Ranking of Wards.

Seventh Ward,	14.38	1,973
Sixth Ward	13.75	1,458
Fourth Ward,	13.66	1,884
Fifth Ward,	13.28	1,554
Thirteenth Ward,	12.20	1,974
Second Ward,	10.11	1,313
Eighth Ward,	9.48	1,763
First Ward,	9.39	1,117
Fourteenth Ward,	8.84	1,176
Ninth Ward,	7.92	970
Twelfth Ward,	7.70	1,036
Sixteenth Ward,	7.00	1,151
Third Ward,	6.79	689
Fifteenth Ward,	6.58	1,249
Tenth Ward,	6.46	872
Eleventh Ward,	5.20	681