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RICH R. CORRELL, Editor

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Friday, April 20th

Gov. Guy B. Park,
Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dear Governor:

You will note the attached proof of the editorial from the Columbia Tribune which I am forwarding today to more than one hundred newspapers in the state and I am confident that each of them will either use the article in full or make favorable comment. This editorial is one of the best I have read and certainly paints a true picture of the Kansas City situation, I am always glad, governor, to give such publicity as you may want at any time. Each week I am sending out a news letter to the democratic press and I am sure that these articles are very helpful to the administration.

Always command me when I can help.

Most Sincerely,
Rich R. Correll
Editor Message.

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LIBELING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS

(From the Columbia Daily Tribune, April 11, 1934)

An obsession of the Kansas City Star for forty years past has been libel and abuse of Democratic governors of Missouri. This penchant for misrepresentation has developed into an absorbing fetish with the Star, and is constantly evidenced on all occasions where it may be dragged in.

An editorial, "The Shame of It," appearing on the front page of the Kansas City Times, morning edition of the Star, on the day following the municipal election in Kansas City, commenting on the murders committed while the election was in progress, exemplifies this innate antipathy to anything Democratic. In part it said:

The accusing fingers of the dead point to Governor Park who was forewarned of what would happen and took no steps to prevent it—the competent tool of the machine that put him in office. To every appeal he replied with weasel words.

Shame, indeed! The real shame of it is that the narrow partisanship of a newspaper

could cause it to abuse the privilege of the press and resort to malicious mendacity in the bitterness of overwhelming defeat by the party that has always been anathema to it.

The same of it is that the newspaper that advocated the election of Hoover and urged the defeat of Franklin D. Roosevelt, that supported Winter and opposed Park should attempt to dupe the public by professing nonpartisanship.

The shame of it is that the newspaper that advocated the election acts of armed gangsters in murdering election officials and innocent bystanders, it at the same time commits an offense more cowardly, more contemptible, more reprehensible than that of the vilest by the use of its columns in a dastardly attempt to besmirch the fine public record of the stated highest official, and all because, forsooth, he is an uncompromising Democrat and throughout an honorable and creditable political career, has never countenanced principles of republicanism in which The Times is steeped to saturation.

The fact of the matter is that now, under the law, the Governor of Missouri has no control over the appointment or actions of the Kansas City police. This was not the case in 1928. Then, the governor had the appointment of the police board and thereby controlled the police. Yet, at the election in Kansas City that year, when 200 and more Democratic voters were poisoned by doped whisky and others shot by Republican officials, and police furnished riot guns and others automatic pistols and sawed off shotguns to intimidate and terrorize Democratic voters, not a cheep was heard from the Kansas City Times, and no editorial condemning the then Republican governor and accusing him of crime appeared on its deitorial page. The silence was most heavy.

All these facts as to active police participation in Kansas City election outrages of 1928 may be found authenticated in the Missouri Supreme Court records where the court affirmed the conviction in the Jackson county circuit court of one Oscar Rowe, a Republican leader, who was sentenced to the penitentiary for five years for committing the crime in which the police participated by hauling 65 gallons of whisky to Rowe's saloon, 602 Main street, where it was doped for the purpose of rendering helplessly drunk any who wore a Democratic button and would accept their proffers.

Conclusive proof of the insincerity and inconsistency of the ugly attack of the Kansas City Times is contained in this excerpt from an editorial published in that paper March 31:

The murders and other election day outrages in Kansas City were, and remain, a matter of local concern. Kansas City gangsters and racketeers who prey upon the public are a matter of local concern. The breeding places of crime that are not only tolerated but encouraged in Kansas City are a matter of local concern. The alleged tie-up of the police with criminal elements in Kansas City is a matter of local concern.

This community's gangster and crime problem must be dealt with by the local authorities or the city finally must be surrendered to the domination of the underworld.

The facts are that Governor Park did all within his power, as Governor, to prevent, the election conflicts that resulted in the murders at Kansas City. The charge of the Times is an outrageous accusation against him. It is on a parity with that against President Roosevelt in the air mail tragedies. The cause in each instance was that machinery thought to be adequate failed to function. With an accessory to bank robberies, holdups, and other crimes being committed from time to time in the whole State of Missouri.

The summing up of the Star's continuous and perennial attitude is that it incessantly preaches righteousness and purity in civic affairs, but "like an ungracious pastor recks not its own rede," for none was as responsible as was the Star and Times for inflaming

the baser passions of voters of the opposing political parties in the recent Kansas City elections. A coterie of perverts assuredly control and direct its dubious methods. But its public knows this newspaper, and in its own bailiwick it is most unheeded and most impotent, a fact invariably and abundantly demonstrated by the returns in election after election.