

## POLITICIANS GET THE PENSIONS

Old people in Missouri have been left to starve and shift as best they might in the darkest hours of the greatest depression while politicians loafed on the pension fund voted by the people. The cruel administration of the old age pension law illustrates the greed of an entrenched political machine —the Kansas City machine.

The spending of the pension money by the politicians is a tragic example of the workings of a corrupt political administration of Missouri's state government.

The Missouri old age pension law was enacted by a Republican administration legislature and signed by a Republican governor, Henry Caulfield. The voters approved the amendment in 1932 by an overwhelming majority.

The Kansas City political machine stole the Democratic party label, stole from 60,000 to 80,000 votes in Kansas City's North End and took over the pension administration.

About 90,000 old people applied for pensions a year ago. Up to June of this year less than a fifth had been put on the pension list.

In June only 379 names were certified to get pensions. Then Jesse W. Barrett, Republican candidate for governor, started a two-fisted attack in behalf of the old people. As a result, in fear of losing votes, and under Barrett's lash, the Kansas City machine put 8,270 on in July and 18,708 in August.

But not at the rate of \$30 a month which the old people had been promised. No, not the avaricious Kansas City machine that wastes the pension money to pad payrolls for the fall election.

What the old people received was an average of about \$9 a month, a half of that to be repaid to the state by the federal government. Instead of their pensions the old people are getting an IOU of more than \$3,000,000, for that is what is due them in unpaid back payments. The big rush in the last few weeks, at the pittance being paid, is an election trick.

Lloyd C. Stark, the Kansas City machine candidate for governor, says he is for old age pensions but for a simplified form of application. Does Stark not know the old people have had their applications in for a year? Does he mean they will have to go through that again and hold up their pensions another year?

November 3 will be the time to stop the use of pension funds by the Kansas City machine. It is time to administer the fund as was intended. There is enough money being wasted on ward heelers, jobholders and graft to pay all the pensions in full.

Vote the Republican ticket November 3 and bring about honest administration of the old age pensions; bring about clean elections and the end of graft in public office.

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