

WATSON, ESS, GRONER, BARNETT WHITTAKER

DIERKS BUILDING

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

TELEPHONES MAIN 3132

February 4, 1937

I.N. WATSON

HENRY N. ESS

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CHAS. E. WHITTAKER

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CARL E. ENGGAS

JOHN R. MOBERLY

V. B. KASSEBAUM

J. F. HOGAN

M. F. HAMILTON

B. M. FORRESTER

Hon. Jesse W. Barrett,

Attorney at Law,

506 Olive Street,

St., Louis, Missouri,

Esteemed friend:

I have your letter of February 3rd and am glad to hear that you are keeping in touch with the federal grand jury proceedings in Kansas City, Missouri, I am very glad to know that the St. Louis newspapers are giving this subject ample space, I am sure that the

good citizens of St, Louis all join in wishing that a real clean-up be had in Kansas City and I feel confident that the present grand jury is not going to stop until it has cleaned up this town and has put a lot of the leaders of the corruption in the penitentiary, A number of indictments have been returned and the grand jury has not made a start as yet on the fraud and corruption that exists throughout this city.

I note that you are disappointed that Fred Bellemere was called as one of the first witnesses merely to identify the records, I looked up that question and I find that the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for New York held specifically that the calling of a party to identify records of that kind affords no immunity against prosecution for crimes committed against election laws; that the federal decisions do not extend to such cases. This decision was by unanimous court and I think the reasons given are good, I think Mr. Milligan, United States District Attorney, was proceeding under this New York case and I know he is of the opinion that there is no immunity given Mr, Bellemere by reason of his

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having been called to testify.

I note what you say about the Republican speakers at the Lincoln Day banquet discussing federal grand jury proceedings. I fully agree with you that nothing should be said to make a partisan issue out of such proceedings. I think it would be a mistake to do so at this time.

Quite a number of our Republicans have been talking to me about taking steps to recommend individuals for the new Election Board. I am sure this is a mistake and I am advising the parties not to do anything at this time. It is very evident that the Governor is not going to make any appointments until after the grand jury has completed its investigation and has made its report, and that is several months ahead of us. Any

presentation of names or request to consider names for the Election Board I think is premature.

I am glad to know that you expect to be in Kansas City on the 13th and I hope that I will be able to get in touch with you on that day and discuss these matters with you personally.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,

I am

Yours very truly,

I. N. Watson

INW:HWC