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WILLIAM E. BYERS

Slater, Missouri,

April 20, 1939

"1940"

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
FRIENDS AND REPUBLICANS:

AMERICANISM THE ISSUE

I am glad to be with you and more than glad to observe the timely interest you are taking in 1940. It is none too early to be setting our house in order and preparing for the next campaign in which the issue will be Americanism. It is not too soon to reform and strengthen Republican Battle Lines for the political conflict in which the rights and liberties of the American people will be at stake. Our citizens high and low, business little and big, farmers, miners, merchants, and artisans all are looking to the Republican Party to bring order out of chaos and restore government by law instead of men in this Country. They must not be disappointed. They have a right to expect the Republican Party, the only organization with experienced troops seasoned in other campaigns, in the field to lead the fight. The Country expects the Republican Party to do its duty.

When government is unsatisfactory it is not because citizens are members of political parties, but because

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representatives of the Party in power do not represent the honest upright citizenship of its members, or because its leaders for personal, selfish or dishonest reasons are not discharging the responsibility of the Party to the people by whose votes it was placed in power. In State and Nation today what is the situation? We are in the hands of

Representatives of organized political machines and organized political racketeers.

## THE KANSAS CITY MACHINE

You do not need to be told about what is going on in Kansas City and the State of Missouri - you know. Many in Kansas City have known for several years what was going on there even if it did take Mayor Smith nine years to find out. Let me quote from a speech made in Kansas City August 26th and reported in the Kansas City Sunday Star August 27th, 1933:

"Let's wipe the stain from Kansas City's good name in the next city election," was the challenge of William E. Byers, Chairman of the Republican County Committee."

"I am talking to you not only as a Republican, but also as a citizen of Kansas City," Mr. Byers said.

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"The hearts of all good citizens have been heavy as they have seen during the last few years one of the finest American cities, their home town, disgraced and its good name dragged into the mire of nation-wide scandal because of political set-ups and lack of law enforcement. It is obvious we need a change and a new deal in Kansas City.

"The Mayor and Business men's council have failed to function and our affairs are run by McElroy and Pendergast. Our council, like the great majority of the house of representatives and senate of the United States, have forgotten they represent the interests of the people instead of a political machine.

WARNED in 1932

"You will recall," Chairman Byers continued, "that our party in the 1932 fall election warned our citizens that the election of the machine ticket masquerading under the banner of the Democratic Party would result in extension of vice and crime conditions in our City. Likewise our citizens also were warned as to the result of the 1930 election.

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"Such warnings were not idle chatter. Look over the record of the mayor, city manager and council, representatives of Democratic machine, and record of murderers, racketeers, kidnapers, gamblers, racing and slot machines affecting men, women and children of Kansas City and draw your own conclusions. There is only one answer. Something must be done.

"Are men men and are citizens citizens," asked Mr. Byers, "when we stand for the kind of government we have in Kansas City? We may be patient and long suffering, but we have reached the limit. We still have churches, civic organizations, and schools opening September 5. We have a mayor, city manager and city council, high class men, who have been down at the city hall three and one-half years without doing anything about conditions. Some of the councilman, because the public is aroused, are now talking about cleaning up Kansas City. Where have they been for the last three or four years, and whom have they been representing?

"When the city manager took over the police Department under Democratic clamor for home rule he promised

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us adequate police service for less money. What did he mean? Conditions relating to public welfare and demanding police protection are worse now than they ever have been in Kansas City.

"We are approaching the next city campaign. What are the citizens going to do

about conditions in Kansas City? The Democratic Party does not govern Kansas City. We are ruled by a ruthless machine with Pendergast at the helm."

That was six years ago. Bryce Smith has been Mayor of Kansas City for nine years and is just now finding out how bad conditions are in the City in which he lives. Let me quote from an editorial appearing in The Kansas City Star Tuesday, April 18, 1939:

"PADDED, SECRET ROLLS

"The garbage contract brought to light last week showed where some of the city's money had been going and explained partly why a city deficit of at least 1 million dollars was being expected.

The city pay roll setup that now is getting out to the public explains still further where the money has been going and why the city's deficit must be estimated at not less than 1 3/4 million dollars.

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The "estimates" are necessary because nobody knows. Nobody knows what the city's deficit actually is. Nobody knows what the city's pay roll is. Nobody knows how many city employees are needed to do the work of the city. Nobody knows how efficient the employees are in the work they are supposed to be doing, or how many are just political employees being carried on the taxpayers' backs."

Now why does Mayor Smith and why do Machine Councilmen, all elected on the same ticket, not know these things? They named the City Manager, and the law requires that all City records shall be open for public inspection at any time. They could have removed the City Manager at any time if he did not keep them fully advised - yet nobody knows. Now the Mayor and the Machine Members of the Council say they are going to "clean up Kansas City and keep it clean." "Can a leopard change its spots or a camel go through the eye of a needle?" McElroy has resigned and the Mayor's Secretary is acting

City Manager. The Director of Police has resigned and his righthand man has taken his place. The day of miracles may not be over - we shall see what we shall see.

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### REPUBLICAN PARTY

However, you are more interested in local, state and national affairs. You are interested of course in breaking up the Kansas City Machine and ending its domination of State Government in Missouri and its usefulness to the New Deal. The New Deal does not represent the Democratic Party or good Democratic citizens and voters generally. Its power rests in the support of organized political machines working together the Country over. How long the New Deal will last is an open question# It is on the wane. It will last just as long as a free people will trade or allow their heritage of free government to be filched away for a mess of pottage without fighting, but people always fight when they have stood all they can. We have stood enough.

The Hew Deal has magic but is not a password to Paradise. It will last just so long as it can fool the people or lull them to sleep, but surpluses and savings cannot last forever with production curtailed and living costs rising. Increased wages and increased expenses do not help. Cheaper money means higher price. Devaluation of the dollar or other Inflation or manipulation of prices is not the answer. We need a stable Government and a stable currency, to restore which is

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the opportunity and responsibility of the Republican Party. The history of the Republican Party is illustrious, but history is of the past and we are of today. There is no time to lose, Americanism will be the issue in the next campaign. What we need is to get intelligent,

experienced leadership, young and old, of the Republican Party into action. What we need is action, well considered, well reasoned timely action and the time is now. The Republicans who voted for the New Deal will be glad to return to our ranks and thousands of our good responsible Democratic citizens will join us in defense of freedom and liberty if we stand for simple, sane, sound, fundamental principles. We have an organization already in the field and this is no time for experiments or dreams.

We don't want Socialism, Fascism, or Communism in this Country - we want Americanism!

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