

The Republican Party of Jackson County, together with The Kansas City Star, are making a drive against Michael O'Hern and in favor of Chet Keyes for the office of Prosecuting Attorney of this County. Their manner of singling out this one office would lead a person to believe that they had either little confidence in being able to elect any other candidate on the Republican ticket, or that they had no confidence in the integrity or ability of other candidates to fill their respective offices. In other words, in their desperate attempt to save something out of the impending wreck of this election, they are willing to throw overboard the whole of the County ticket for Mr. Keyes. I wonder how the rank and file of the Republican party and the other candidates like this kind of tactics?

The radio speeches, and editorial comments and publicity given to Mr. Keyes, attempts to paint him as "white as a lily" and as "pure as the driven snow" and as an impartial, fearless prosecuting official.

The headquarters for the Republican Party at 10th and Walnut display a large picture of Mr. Keyes, together with a statement of his "experience" as a prosecuting attorney's assistant, and as an assistant United States District Attorney in Kansas City, and in Pennsylvania.

As to the qualifications of Mike O'Hern, no one has ever questioned his personal, political or professional integrity. In fact, the Kansas City Star grudgingly admits in its editorial comment of Monday morning on October 28th last, and said:

"Mike O'Hern has had many years of experience in the Jackson County Prosecutor's office under both Republican and Democratic prosecutors. He is well liked personally and has always been considered personally honest."

The worst that the opposition can say about Mike O'Hern is that he is a Democrat and they do not like Democrats, because some Democrats have been charged with dereliction of duty.

But in order for the pot to call the kettle black, it should be free from black itself. I believe that the Republican party and Mr. Keyes must prove themselves free of dereliction of duty if they expect the Democrats to scratch Democrat Mike O'Hern, and vote for Republican Chet Keyes.

If we go back into the times when Mr. Keyes and his Republican friends would have us do, the times when he was a Deputy United States Attorney, we might find some interesting skeletons in his closet.

We find a Republican as Governor of the State, who had appointed a Republican Board of Police Commissioners for Kansas City. They, in turn, had appointed Republicans to the police department of Kansas City. I have no quarrel with that practice, but I do have a quarrel with what they did as policemen and with what Mr. Keyes failed to do when as a Deputy United States District Attorney, charged with the enforcement of the liquor laws under the Prohibition Act of Congress. We find this occurred in Kansas City, Missouri. That the Republicans, the little angels, "stole" 65 gallons of corn whiskey from "the police garage" which was transported "to 602 Main Street on November 5, 1928." I do not make this charge without undeniable proof thereof. I find this very language in an opinion of the Supreme Court of Missouri, in the case of State of Missouri versus Oscar Rowe, reported in 24 S. W. (2d) 1032, and decided February 19, 1930.

The place, 602 Main Street is described in the opinion as having been used for the combined purpose of "a restaurant in front and a gambling establishment in rear \* \* on the second floor \* \* a house of prostitution." On the premises, defendant Rowe also sold whiskey.

The opinion also says that the defendant was a precinct captain for the Republican party, and a worker in the Presidential election of November 6, 1928. The opinion recites that defendant Roe and "four police detectives, to-wit: officers Morley, King red Perrin \* \* went to the police garage for whiskey." Later that afternoon (the day before election) defendant said "he wanted to give this whiskey to Al Smith voters so as to get them drunk and keep them from voting."

They got all of the men who were wearing Al Smith buttons that could be enticed to Main Street, and to aid in luring them, provided a band to play music. They then proceeded to pour "the whiskey from the containers procured from the police garage in tin cups and glasses" and gave it to the Al Smith voters of the north side.

The opinion further recites "when the men reached a certain stage of intoxication, they were dragged to the basement. Defendant's associates would lift the heads of the drunken men in the basement and pour whiskey down their throats. Some two hundred men were in the basement in all stages of intoxication. Some were pitifully drunk and lying on the floor. The valuables of those lured into the place were taken and retained. Around 2 o'clock A. M. on November 6, 1928, the police wagons arrived. The wagons were used to convey the drunken men found in the basement to the holdover. No charges were preferred against them. They were detained until about 6:30 P. M. on the evening of November 6, 1928, when they were released. \* \* "

"\* \* \* After the men were lured to 602 Main Street, they were prevented from departing by defendant's associates stationed at the dorrs, \* \* who were armed with riot guns and revolvers. Some of the riot guns and sawedoff shotguns were brought to 602 Main Street by the police. \* \* About 10 P. M. on the night of November 5, 1928, two police officers in uniform drove up and carried the guns away."

The sequel to the story is there were at least six deaths from the effects of this debauchery, the whiskey having been poisoned with chloral to make it more effective in knocking the Al Smith voters out.

The defendant Rowe was convicted and given a penitentiary sentence wich was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

How you did not reach much about this in the Kansas City Star, Neither did you learn that the Republican Police Board discharged the police officers who were responsible for that whiskey stealing, or the safekeeping of the whiskey, nor did they discharge any of the officers who lent them the arsel of guns to carry out the nefarious plans.

Further, I want to make the point that at immediately after this occurred, Mr. Chet Keyes was an Assistant United States District Attorney, who was charged with the duty of enforcing the liquor laws. Did he begin any prosecutions against any Republican Precinct Captain, or any police officer? He did not.

He had to go 1500 miles to Pennsylvania and prosecute persons who were not known to him. I say you have reason to doubt the sincerity and courageous qualities of an alert able prosecuting official who would not take some action under those circumstances. He cannot say he did not know of these facts, because they were printed in the Kansas City Post at the time they occurred, and officially published in February, 1930, by the Supreme Court in the Rowe case.

Let's look a little further to see how the Rpublicna party and its workers were further tied

up with the heinous plan and what they did or did not do about it.

The Republican Governor elected at that time, later appointed a new board of election commissioners, one of whom was no less than August F. Behrendt, the same gentleman who is now their candidate for sheriff of this County. Did August F. Behrendt do anything or say anything about this, or did he ever discharge the officers who were named in court? He did not.

A little further still, who do you think defended Oscar Rowe in the Supreme Court? Why none other than Chet Keyes' boss while he was Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Forrest W. Hanna. Yes, the same Forrest W. Hanna that the same Republicans want to send to Congress.

Yes, these same Republicans and the Kansas City Star call the kettle black.

Yes, these same Republicans want to elect another Republic Governor so he will appoint another Republican Police Board, who will in turn appoint some more republican policemen who will let the confiscated poison whiskey be stolen, and who will help distribute it to get democrats drunk and keep them from voting. Yes, and to furnish the weapons to keep them from voting, and to furnish the wagons to haul them to the holdover where they will be kept with no charges preferred against them until after the polls close.

I leave it to you to say by your vote if the pot can call the kettle black.

In closing, may I suggest you ask any lawyer, any judge, or any juror who has sat in the trial of a case prosecuted by Mike O'Hern, about his ability, his integrity, his professional standing and you will find him a good lawyer, and able prosecuting official, having served for more than 20 years under both Democrats and Republicans, and last, but not least, you will also find him a christian gentleman.