

**KANSAS CITY**  
**Society for Suppression**  
**of**  
**Commercialized Vice**

**INCORPORATED**

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**REPORT OF SECRETARY**  
**OCTOBER 23, 1934**

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE  
SOCIETY FOR SUPPRESSION OF COM-  
MERCIALIZED VICE FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING OCTOBER 23, 1934.

To the Directors:

The last annual report of the secretary for the year ending Oct. 31, 1933, began with these words: "It is with regret that no decided moral improvement in Kansas City during the past year can be reported. While repeated statements of bad moral conditions have been made to the police with requests for their removal, no determined effort has been made by the officers to subdue them." The quoted paragraph well describes the moral condition of Kansas City at the present time. In the Society's latest report to the Director of Police, on Oct. 15, we cited 57 different places used for immoral purposes. This list by no means included all immoral houses, but simply those that were easily available to locate.

The following is a sample report:

"No. ----- Cherry Street. This afternoon two girls were street soliciting on the east side of Cherry. This evening four girls were soliciting at the same place. There is a saloon on the corner and the girls visit it quite frequently and now and then come out with a man to go with them to their place over the saloon. Most of their trade, however, comes from direct solicitation on the street. This evening the girls "hooked" four men in less than half an hour."

Gambling Houses Increase.

The number and patronage of the gambling places have greatly increased during the last year. The slot machines have not returned, but their places are occupied by a much larger number of gambling devices operated as "games of skill." So

extensive is the demand for these machines, that a business house handles them exclusively.

Not long ago, race track gambling was conducted in only a few places in Kansas City. Now it has become general. On October 8, our Society reported to the Director of Police the location of 19 gambling places. There are many others. Some are elaborately equipped. By recent police order, women are now excluded from gambling houses. The following is from the report of our investigator:

"No. -----Grand Ave. You enter directly off the street. A partition screens the gambling room from the smoke shop. Walls covered with racing cards as usual. A betting counter takes bets on the day's races at Detroit, Lincoln Fields, Rockingham, Laurel and Jamaica. Two Black Jack tables, with only one in operation, 5 men playing. About 75 men in the room. No women."

#### The Liquor Situation Intolerable.

A prominent Kansas City politician gave a popular view of the present liquor situation when he said: "Prohibition was worse than the license system, but present conditions are worse than prohibition." A saloon is a place, according to definition, where intoxicating liquors are sold and drunk. Saloons are almost everywhere. The provisions of the Kansas City Liquor Control Ordinance are almost universally disregarded. Human lives are in jeopardy by drunken automobile drivers. It is hoped that the present intolerable conditions will lead to radically different methods of liquor control. Our investigatior [sic] reports on this saloon:

"No. -----McGee Street. This is a real saloon, nicely furnished, bar, back bar, etc. They make a specialty of fancy mixed drinks. In one corner at the front, is a small cooking place for preparing light lunches. No food at the bar. Small tables are

provided for customers who like to sit and drink. This place caters to women. Four were seated at tables drinking."

### Candidates [sic] Make Pledges.

Prior to the city election in March 27, and on the initiative of our Society, a letter outlining the bad moral, liquor and gambling situations in Kansas City, was sent to the 22 candidates for office. A statement was asked from the candidates regarding their attitude toward the elimination of the conditions described. The letter was signed by 6 representatives of as many of the leading denominations. The fusion candidates responded by a combined statement which was very satisfactory. Several candidates of the opposition gave assurance of their desire to comply with the request. It is recommended that

the elected candidates who gave the desired assurance be now asked to make good their declarations for a morally clean city.

### Night Clubs Flourish.

The return of the saloon and its accessories has induced forty-five "night clubs" to open up. Several are elaborately equipped and serve all kinds of liquors. The sale of 3.2 beer being "nonintoxicating," requires no license from the city, but it opens the way for beer parlors to serve hard drinks on the sly. As other drink control requirements are not observed, it is probable that there are large quantities of intoxicating liquors sold along with the beer.

The character of the entertainments at the night clubs is indicated by a press statement "that people who go to night clubs know what kind of a show to expect." The night clubs have pretty much driven out the burlesque shows, although one is advertised to resume operations.

### Conclusion.

What shall be our attitude toward these distressingly unwholesome conditions? Amidst all this wretchedness shall we abandon our fight against entrenched wrong? Shall we tamely submit to the powerful forces against us? No! Let us gird up our loins, put on our armour and continue the battle against the forces of evil. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Faithfully yours,

Nat Spencer, Secretary