

# *The Informant*

No. 2

**Devoted to the Enlightenment of  
Good Citizens Whose Duty It  
Is to Maintain Law and  
Decency in the City**

SEPTEMBER, 1936

ISSUED BY THE  
KANSAS CITY  
**Anti-Vice Society**  
formerly the  
Society for Suppression of  
Commercialized Vice

INCORPORATED, 1913

DORR H. CARROLL, President

REV. ROT O. CHANEY, Vice-President NAT

SPENCER, Secretary

PRESTON DOBBIN, Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. T. Brigham Mrs. W. H.	Mrs. C. R. Howard
Bruce Dorr H. Carroll Rev.	Mrs. LaVona C. Inman Rev. C.
Roy O. Chaney C. M. Chick	P. Jones Rev. J. W. McDonald
Preston Dobbins Col. Charles	Mrs. Rose M. Ohaus Mrs.
Edwards Dr. A. H.	Mary Ream Nat Spencer
Eggleston Miss Nellie	William Volker Rev. O. L.
Flanigan H. C. Hardin Dr. I.	Walter George Westfall I. N.
M. Hargett Rev. D. A.	Watson Elmore Williams
Holmes	

**Headquarters, 510-511 Ridge Bldg.**

MAin 7037

# WHAT THE LAW SAYS

(From revised city ordinances of 1928:)

## INDECENT SHOWS, ETC.

No person shall be guilty of an unseemly obscene or filthy act or any lewd, indecent, immoral, or insulting conduct, language or behavior, or shall exhibit, circulate, distribute, sell, offer or expose for sale . . . any lewd, indecent or obscene book ... or allow to be exhibited or performed in or upon any house ... owned by him or under his management and control, any lewd, indecent or immoral play or other representation.

## HOUSES OF ILL FAME

No person shall keep a bawdy house, or assignation; or shall knowingly allow or permit any house, building or other premises in his possession or under his control, to be used for any such purpose.

## GAMBLING

No person shall set up or keep any gaming table or gambling device at which any game of chance shall be played for money or property, or things representing money or property, or shall suffer, allow or permit any such table or device, at which any game of chance is played, to be set up or used in any room, house or tenement in his possession or under his control.

## MISSOURI CODE ON GAMBLING

Sec. 4287 (Revised statutes of Missouri, 1929)

Keeping Gaming Device — Every person who shall set up or keep any table or gaming device commonly called A B C , faro, bank, E O, roulette, equality, keno, slot machine stand or device of whatever pattern, kind or make, or however worked, operated or manipulated or any kind of gaming table or gambling device . . . shall on conviction, be guilty of a felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary . . .

# *The* Informant

Definite and accurate acquaintance with the facts is an essential of good citizenship. The INFORMANT believes most good citizens of Kansas City know that grossly illegal enterprises are operating in the city on an extended scale. But it also believes that such knowledge can become an effective means for improvement of conditions only when it becomes specific. The INFORMANT proposes to devote itself from time to time to meeting this need. It will relate, accurately and without prejudice, specific violations that are in progress, in the hope that this information may prove useful in making a cleaner Kansas City. A report of one recent investigation is published below.

## **Gambling, Vice and Illegal Liquor Prevails**

A preceding issue of THE INFORMANT told of gambling, particularly in the Westport District. Eye witnesses described a gambling place at 39th and Main Streets, and told of the afternoon attendance of 75 persons and an evening attendance of a hundred people, more than one-half of whom were women. The place is about two blocks from the Westport High School and the Westport Junior High School and on the street traveled by the greatest number of the thousands of boys and girls who attend these fine schools. Gambling devices in drug stores and cigar stores are almost universal. These games of chance are played by men and women adults and by boys and girls. The gambling situation in our city is practically the same as it was in early summer, when the report was made.

### **Immoral Houses Galore.**

Our recent partial report to the Director of Police gives the location of 42 immoral houses. In general, they are operated by from one to several women and are usually found in poorly kept buildings. They are located mostly in poor residential districts but are also in a much used business locality leading to the city market. Quoting from the report to the Director of Police: "Some evenings ago a party drove through these districts and reported a seemingly solid section of depravity and was horrified at the situation presented."

### **The Injunction and Abatement Law.**

The Missouri Injunction and Abatement Act declares immoral houses to be nuisances and the owners may be enjoined from using any building for such purposes. The Prosecuting Attorney may institute a suit in equity to perpetually enjoin the owner from such illegal use. Injunctions have been placed on several such places, but the present Prosecuting Attorney refuses to take any action in the matter. Thus, the most effective legal weapon is withheld from use. Some citizens believe in segregated districts, but the Society for Suppression of Commercialized Vice is firmly opposed to any arrangement which legalizes moral crimes. As former Mayor Harrison of Chicago said, "We must stamp it out."

### **Liquor Laws Violated.**

A third element in the Kansas City situation is the violation of the liquor law. Notwithstanding the promise that we should have nothing like the old fashioned saloon, that is just what Kansas City has. "A saloon is a place where intoxicating liquor is sold and drunk." There are hundreds of such places in Kansas City. The saloon is here. The question is, what are we going to do about it ?

### **The Preaching Mission An Opportunity.**

The Preaching Mission in Kansas City is designed to improve the quality of our Christianity. It is conceded that we are our brother's keeper and we are as responsible for the bad conditions which we permit to surround us as we are to maintain good conditions. Let's "give the Gospel a chance."

The United States Department of Commerce, in its report on religious bodies, states that there are in Kansas City 285 churches with 157,957 members. Gideon's army of 32,000 was too large, but when reduced to 300 they won a great victory. Out of our Church army of 157,957 if there are excluded the infants, the infirm, the spineless and the fearful, perhaps the remaining one-tenth are dependable for an Armageddon against the Sodom and Gomorrah conditions with which our city is plagued. If 15,000 persons, only one-tenth of our church membership, would engage in an aggressive campaign for civic righteousness we would have what Theodore Roosevelt called "The noblest sport in the world." Fifteen thousand men and women, determined to put their religion into practice and with faith in the God whom they profess to serve, can establish a reign of righteousness in Kansas City.

### **The Administration's Wrong Idea.**

But the city administration thinks that the majority of our citizens want a wide-open town. It is claimed that a wide-open town brings business. It is said that when people from our trade territory come to our Jubilesta, our American Royal, our musical entertainments and to see our art treasures they must be privileged to have a good time.

The Anti-Vice Society believes that our neighboring friends will think a whole lot more of us if we have a town that makes them feel safe for their boys and girls to visit. There is a way in which we can show the administration that the most of our people want a clean town. Write to the Mayor and the City Manager and tell them so.

We can have any kind of government we want and will work for. We should not put our lights under a bushel. Theodore Roosevelt once said: "I believe that the American people can best be lead by an appeal to their higher ideals." Kansas City is one of America's most American cities. We submit that this statement is true today of Kansas City.

If we, as church people, develop some moral stamina through the Preaching Mission, or otherwise, and make our wishes known we can correct the evils mentioned and yet make Kansas City a good place in which to live.

Contributions to help defray the cost of THE INFORMANT, sent to the office, 510 Ridge Bldg., will be appreciated.