

KANSAS CITY

Anti-Vice Society

INCORPORATED, 1913

DORR H. CARROLL, President

GEORGE F. WESTFALL, Vice-President

NAT SPENCER, Secretary

PRESTON DOBBIN, Treasurer

REPORT OF SECRETARY

FOR OCTOBER 31, 1936

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maj. Chas. B. Booth E. T.
Brigham Mrs. W. H. Bruce
Dorr H. Carroll Rev. Roy
O. Chaney C. M. Chick
Preston Dobbin Col.
Charles Edwards Dr. A.
H. Eggleston Miss Nellie
Flanigan H. C. Hardin
Rev. D. A. Holmes

Mrs. C. R. Howard Mrs.
LaVona C. Inman Rev. C.
P. Jones Rev. J. W.
McDonald Mrs. Rose M.
Ohaus Rev. L. A. Reed Nat
Spencer William Volker
Rev. O. L. Walter George F.
Westfall I. N. Watson
Elmore Williams

Headquarters, 510-511 Ridge Bldg.

Main 7037

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE
ANTI-VICE SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR
ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1936

The general vice condition in Kansas City is quite similar to what it was a year ago. Prostitution has not been materially checked, liquor sales are not under legal control and gambling was never more open and unrestrained.

In January of this year, Rev. Roy O. Chaney felt that his duties to his church were so urgent that he could no longer act as president of our organization; Dorr H. Carroll was unanimously chosen president in place of Rev. Chaney. John F. Cell who was elected vice-president has resigned from the directorate and his position as vice-president has remained vacant since that time.

Four evening dinner meetings of the Society have been held, at which there were discussions of the vice situation, and the best means to combat the entrenched evils. Two of these meetings were held at the First Baptist Church, one at the Y. M. C. A. and the last at Clarke Restaurant, 319 Ridge Building.

At the meeting of January 31, a motion by Rev. Chaney was carried to the effect that a committee be appointed to present the best practical plan of getting the moral situation in Kansas City before people who might be interested in better moral conditions here. As such committee, President Carroll appointed Rev. Roy O. Chaney, Miss Nellie Flanigan and Rev. D. A. Holmes.

At the following meeting, the committee recommended that a 3-page folder be issued, giving the public information on the moral conditions in our city. On motion of Rev. C. P. Jones, it was voted to print 6,000 copies of the proposed folder and more if

they could be profitably used and if the project could be financed.

At the meeting of February 28, Elmore Williams was elected director, in place of John F. Cell, who resigned.

The folder for public distribution was named "The Informant." 10,000 copies of the first issue were printed. The distribution was made through the churches. This issue dealt exclusively with the gambling conditions in Kansas City, and gave specific information of the somewhat fashionable gambling place at the northwest corner of 39th and Main Streets. Here, a wide-open gambling place was conducted—with an attendance of 75 to 100 persons in the afternoon, about half of whom were women.

A second edition of "The Informant" was issued in September. It gave information on the triple evils of vice, gambling and the drinking of intoxicating liquor. 11,000 copies of this issue were printed and distributed among the churches. The ministers were quite willing to cooperate in this distribution. Whether this method of getting conditions before the public should be continued should be made a matter of careful consideration. Possibly, public meetings held in churches should be considered.

In August, a special investigation was made of the location of places of prostitution. The canvass was in no sense a complete survey of the situation, but fifty places were located and reported to the Director of Police. No especial action was taken by the Department on the report. The Prosecuting Attorney continues his refusal to use the Injunction and Abatement Law in the suppression of prostitution. Most of the places

reported to the Director of Police are familiar locations and are permitted to operate without serious molestation.

For some time it has been apparent that the name "Society for Suppression of Commercialized Vice" is unduly cumbersome and a shorter name would be more effective. On September 3, by unanimous vote of the directors, the name of our organization was changed to "Anti-Vice Society." President Carroll was requested to ascertain what legal steps would be necessary to complete the change of name in accordance with our incorporation.

These continued unfavorable annual reports of the vice condition in Kansas City should not discourage us. Sooner or later the tide will turn and we will be able better to cope with future conditions because we have remained on the job during evil days and years and have not been overwhelmed nor totally discouraged by continued adverse conditions.

Faithfully yours,

NAT SPENCER, Secretary