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XVIII

East St. Louis Riots Investigation

Saturday Nov. 10 - 1917

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Howard C. ...

Saturday, November 10, 1917.

The Committee met at 10:15 o'clock A.M., Hon: Ben Johnson (Chairman), presiding.

STATEMENT OF REVEREND *Geo. W.* ALLISON (resumed).

Mr. Johnson: Reverend Allison, if you desire to make an additional statement, please go on in your own way and make it.

Mr. Allison: Last night I was called up on the telephone by two men whose names I mentioned yesterday, and with their own statements to make clear just their relations. One man I mentioned was Mr. Coffey, a member of the present police force. I mentioned his name as a character witness in the Albrecht case that was tried at Danville. Mr. Coffey-- I met him, as I told you, in the Union Station on the night he was going over there. At that time he thought he was a character witness, and he was disgusted to think that he should be called as a character witness when he was the agent for the Southern Railway, the people from whom the cigarettes were stolen-- he ~~was~~ tells me he was called there as a material witness, and not as a character witness.

Mr. Johnson: For the prosecution or the defense?

Mr. Allison: He was called by the defense, by the attorney for the defense, Mr. McGlynn, to be used as a material witness to testify as to just the conversation that took place between the southern detectives and Mr. Albrecht when they went to him to talk to him about the matter.

Mr. Johnson: The southern Railroad detectives?

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Mr. Allison: The southern Railroad detectives; yes, sir. Another man's name is Mr. Stuernagle, of the Central Brewery. Mr. Stuernagle came to see me last night, and he says all of that detectives' report is true, except the statement that they could do anything except commit murder. He says he didn't make that statement to them, but he did tell them to go to Locke Tarlton, that he was the political boss of the town, that he owned the Mayor, roots and baggage, and he did tell them that he did want to put Stewart in another place, let him start another place.

Mr. Johnson: Did he say he didn't tell them that he could make this place a house of assignation?

Mr. Allison: He says that when they asked him for assurances as to what kind of business they could run there he continually referred them to Mr. Tarlton.

Then this matter-- I think Mr. Johns, who is the business agent of the Carpenters' Union, was the union man who had made the statement to the colored man in my presence, that Dr. Bundy had double-crossed the labor unions, and possibly Mr. Johns could be able to clear that matter up as to what the transaction was between the negroes and the labor unions.

992 There is one thing that I think is essential to bring out here. I called a man, the Chairman of my board of deacons, Mr. T. A. Woody, and he told me one time a statement that is significant, pointing out the fact that Canaven and Tarlton did know the character of this place that is now called the Commercial Hotel. Mr. Woody has a brother who took a mortgage on a piece of property just a block this side of the Commercial

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Hotel-- I think it is now occupied by the Dirden Liquor Company and the Republican headquarters were upstairs there last fall. Mr. Moody says that Mr. Tarlton told him that he wasn't getting rent enough out of the property, and suggested to him that if he would fix the place up like his was fixed up down there, that he could get more money out of it, and told Mr. Moody the amount of money per month that he was getting out of that Commercial Hotel because of its being prominently located and fixed up as it was.

Mr. Cooper: Fixed up as it was means fixed up as an assignat'on house?

Mr. Allison: Well, that probably would be left for Tarlton to say, about what he meant by saying "fixed up as it was." It is very evident he did know how it was fixed up. Another statement concerning Canavan's attitude towards this riot-- there is no idea of persecution, but there is an idea of fairness here. Mr. Canavan the day of the riot said in the presence of several gentlemen, Mr. Robert Smith of this city, and Mr. Meints-- in the presence of these gentlemen and others, who said something to him about this riot being a terrible thing, and something ought to be done to have it stopped, Mr. Canavan replied by saying that the negroes didn't think of that when they killed Coppedge and Folley, and that now they were only getting what they justly deserved.

Mr. Cooper: Whom did he say that in the presence of?

Mr. Allison: Mr. Meints was one of the men, and Mr. Meints could tell you of other men who were in his presence when

that was said.

Another thing here that bears-- corroborates the statement I made yesterday about the present administration undertaking to throw this police board out when the amount of money that was donated to cover the expenses of the present police board-- when that amount of money was exhausted the administration had a definite plan to throw them out. Mr. Thomas Corrigan, one of the Aldermen here, made a statement last Wednesday saying that the Council was going to "roll" the present police force some time after the first of the year, because they wouldn't do things in harmony with the present administration.

Mr. Cooper: You mean get rid of the new board?

Mr. Allison: Yes, the new police board.

Mr. Cooper: This next January?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Because they wouldn't do things in accordance with the old--

Mr. Allison: (Interposing) with the Mayor and the present administration.

Mr. Cooper: with the old machine?

Mr. Allison: with the old regime.

Mr. Cooper: You said "regime". I said "machine".

Mr. Allison: Machine is all right. It is a better word. And to bring out clearly and definitely the intricate relationship between this Cameron and Tarlton machine and other evil influences here, I told you yesterday of an

experience I had with some gamblers over here, making them pay back to a young fellow, who was a member of my church, the amount of money that he owed to loan sharks here in town, money that he had borrowed and lost in that gambling place. The proprietor of that gambling place was a man known as "Mule Pole Fritz". This man Mule Pole Fritz--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing:): What is his real name?

Mr. Allison: Adam Fritz. He is called "Mule Pole". He used to be a blacksmith and turned out to be an expert ~~xxx~~ craps shooter, and he has made lots of money in that business, so far as told, but it was through Mr. Tarlton's influence that he was made a tax buyer in this county here.

Mr. Johnson: That do you mean by "tax buyer"?

Mr. Allison: He buys up delinquent taxes.

Mr. Johnson: He made purchases at delinquent tax sales?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; and Mr. Tarlton conducts all of this man Fritz's real estate deals.

Mr. Johnson: "Mule Pole" Fritz? Is that the name?

Mr. Allison: That is the name he is known by here on the streets. Now Dr. McCracken, who is our health officer here, to show you that he knows all about that game run up there, one day at a luncheon he said in the presence of some gentlemen who would be willing to corroborate the statement, that he was up at Mule Pole's game last night and he couldn't have any luck, and he said "Who should walk in but Henry?"

That was his assistant on the health department.

Mr. Johnson: McCracken's assistant?

Mr. Allison: McCracken's assistant.

Mr. Baker: What is his other name?

Mr. Allison: Henry Alston, and he said "when Henry walked in I said 'Here, Henry, what are you doing here?' 'Oh, just up looking around.' 'Well', I said, 'I am not having any luck; roll these bones for me and see if you can't change my luck.'" And he made the statement there at this luncheon that Henry took the bones and rolled them and ~~one~~^{two} McCracken a hundred dollars.

Mr. Johnson: The bones or the dice?

Mr. Allison: The dice. That is what is meant by "bones".

Mr. Johnson: Were any of them shod on one side to make that side go down?

Mr. Allison: Well, if I wanted a square crap game I wouldn't have gone around there to have gotten it.

Mr. Baker: Did the police ever confiscate any of these dice tables, that you know of?

Mr. Allison: I have known of this report that a lot of the slot machines were confiscated out of the saloon and taken to the police station, and then when gambling began to spring up out in the county I heard from pretty good sources that Mr. Tarlton was financing the project and they were going to make a Monte Carlo out of Falling Spring, a station below here, and it is a fact that this man who is the head of the Waiters' and Bartenders' Union, Hunter Ben Keith, went down to Falling Spring to be the manager of the project. I have also heard it said that while the Mayor was out of town and

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down south on his trip, that the slot machines were taken out of the police station and taken down there to be used in that place, at Falling Spring.

Mr. Baker: Hunter Ben Yeith, what position did he occupy?

Mr. Allison: He was manager of the Falling Spring project.

Mr. Baker: What other position did he occupy?

Mr. Allison: He was head of the Bartenders' and Waitresses Union.

Mr. Cooper: Had he been at the Bucket of Flood?

Mr. Allison: That is the man.

Mr. Cooper: The same man?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir. That bartenders' and waitresses union had been called the "Bucket of Flood."

Mr. Baker: Now you answered as to the slot machines, but did they ever confiscate any of the crap tables?

Mr. Allison: I don't know about that. I think they could get several today if they would go out and pick them up.

Mr. Baker: Have you heard how some of those crap tables were made?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I have heard different stories about them being reversible and make another piece of furniture out of them; but I hardly know how that would be practical.

Mr. Baker: I was wondering if they used them here as they have used them in other places, with electrical appliances by which the man whenever he wanted to get a particular dice on the table-- that is, particular numbers-- he touched a

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certain button and the dice would come his way-- loaded dice?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know about that. Then there is another thing, too, I want to state here-- I think it ought to be brought out--

Mr. Baker (Interposing:): Before you get on to that, what became of Falling Spring? Is it still running?

Mr. Allison: No; the Attorney General went in and closed it up, and one night it burned down.

Mr. Baker: Was it insured?

Mr. Allison: Very heavily insured.

Mr. Cooper: There was no great amount of net loss, then, if it was heavily insured?

Mr. Allison: Oh, no.

Mr. Baker: The attachment was so hot that it set it on fire, of course (laughter.)

Mr. Allison: There is another thing here, too, about property. It is fair to say that there are some men in town-- and some of the real estate men in town-- who will not rent property to prostitutes, and a discrimination ought to be made in these. There is a piece of property back of this building, the Metropolitan Building here, known as the Eagle Building. That is owned by Dr. Little and his brother, our registrar here, and it is known to be a questionable place. It has been for a long time.

Mr. Baker: The Doctor rents it?

Mr. Allison: I don't know whether he rents it or does it through an agent.

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Mr. Baker: It is the Doctor's property?

Mr. Allison: It is his property. He and his brother, I am told, are the owners of it.

Mr. Baker: What do you mean by "questionable"?

Mr. Allison: Well, only one thing, women of bad repute. They rent rooms there for three dollars, and it don't make any difference to them-- it is your room; you pay the three dollars for it and take anybody there you want to.

Mr. Baker: For how long do you get that room for three dollars? Is that weekly or monthly lodging?

Mr. Allison: No, I don't think they stay a week.

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Then another instance showing the utter refusal of the city administration to clean up a disreputable joint when all the evidence needed was brought forward; the present location of the Railroad Y. M. C. A. in our city about a year ago was occupied by a disreputable character known as "Fat Johnson".

Mr. Johnson: A man or woman?

Mr. Allison: Man. The Railroad Y. M. C. A. was located then in the same building but right behind this corner part and the hotel part that was operated by this man Johnson; and he also had his bar-room in the corner part of the building. Now the building was owned by the Mississippi Trust Company, and is yet-- the Mississippi Valley Trust Company: Johnson and the Y. M. C. A. had continual spats. He had a crap game going in a part of his building there, and they got so boisterous and loud about it that the railroad men couldn't sleep in the rooms-- the partitions were thin.

A lot of complaints went in.

Mr. Johnson: Railroad men having beds in the Y. M. C. A. couldn't sleep?

Mr. Allison: Yes, and the partitions were thin between them and this gambling room, and you could go there and hear them in the adjoining rooms as they were operating this gambling room. Now Mr. Miller took it up with the Mayor, and the Mayor wouldn't do anything about it. Then Johnson undertook to retaliate. The water supply for the Railroad Y. M. C. A. ran through pipes, the valve of which was over in the basement of this saloon. Johnson shut the Y. M. C. A. water off-- that is, the water was shut off. They couldn't get any, and when Mr. Miller complained about it and sent some railroad men over there to turn the water on, Johnson said "Let that other son of a bitch come over here and turn it on." There was only one thing he wanted, of course, and that was for Miller to come over there and go down into that dark basement, turn the water on, and get a beating. That was all there was to that.

Then Johnson was conducting such a disreputable place, an assignation and gambling house, that it was a disgrace to the city and it was open and flagrant. Mayor Mollman was appealed to time after time but couldn't do anything. At last a reporter for the Times, the St. Louis Times, took the matter up and went to Mr. Mollman and threatened him, told him "I'll expose you if you don't close that place up." It was written up in the papers and was getting to be dirty, so the Times

reporter came to Mr. Vollen and told him, "I'll give you till 12 o'clock to take the license away from that fellow." Vollen said he would have to see about it. Then he made the usual rounds over to Canavan and Tarlton to find out about the advisability of the thing. He came back and said he didn't think he could do it in that time. The reporter said "If you don't do it-- and you've got a very few minutes to do it-- there will be something going on. I'll turn you up right now." So Vollen went back on his trip and then they went over and got Johnson's license, closed him up for a little time, and finally allowed him to reopen. This reporter for the St. Louis Times was beaten up over there in that place, given an unmerciful beating-- no, it was the cartoonist for the Times that was beaten up over there in that place, and the Times threatened to sue the Mississippi Valley Trust Company if they didn't close the place. Now Mr. Vollen has taken the honor upon himself of having ~~disclosed~~ that disreputable joint, when he literally did nothing about it, only tried to venter the front over for the fellow; but the Trust Company closed the place. The Mississippi Valley Trust Company closed it, and Mr. Johnson was put out, and then the Railroad V. V. C. A. rented the entire building from the Mississippi Valley Trust Company.

Mr. Baker: Is that where it is now?

Mr. Allison: That is where the V.V.C.A. is now.

Mr. Baker: What became of "Fats Johnson"?

Mr. Allison: I think he went out to one of these places-- Fairmont is the last I heard of him, a little cor-

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poration out here.

Mr. Johnson: A municipal corporation?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Name those municipal corporations, as many of them as you can, that lie adjacent to this city of East St. Louis; or if not exactly contiguous, near to it.

Mr. Allison: Well, Fairmont is one; Dupeau is another; National City-- that is a very important one-- Brooklyn.

Mr. Cooper: Granite City, where is that?

Mr. Allison: Granite City-- that is another town up here. There are a chain of towns. It is in Madison County-- Madison and Venice. There are three towns lying along there. I believe that is about all-- East Carondelet also.

Mr. Cooper: How does each of these places have its separate little municipal government?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: For example, National City, five or six hundred people, regular residents, has a Mayor?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Police force, and so forth?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And these other little municipalities have a similar set of officers?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: And of course they do, within the limits of those respective municipalities, practically as they please

in the matter of police regulation and toleration of crime for criminals?

Mr. Allison: Yes. The thing reacts, though, on these fellows by this: They can't establish any sort of resort and make it a legal thing, where liquor is sold, within two miles of one of those corporations. Whenever they get one of them, it centralizes the place of their operations. Now they did undertake-- they tried to get up a corporation down here for Eahovia, so they could take in Falling Springs and a lot of those places and call it a city: It is just out there in the woods, but the idea was to get a corporation where they could have licensed saloons and operate those places; but they didn't push it on through for some reason. I don't know why.

Mr. Johnson: In which one of these towns is Aunt Kate's Honky-Tonk?

Mr. Allison: That is in Brooklyn.

Mr. Cooper: That is where the mayor of National City lives?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: What is the Mayor's name?

Mr. Allison: Shepherd.

Mr. Cooper: Who is the city attorney for that town?

Mr. Allison: For Brooklyn?

Mr. Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Allison: I don't know.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know who is the city attorney for National City?

Mr. Allison: I do not.

Mr. Johnson: Aunt Kate's Honky Tonk is a drinking place, I believe you said?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Are there any other saloons in that municipality?

Mr. Allison: Several. I don't know how many.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know whether or not one of these is run by an office-holder?

Mr. Allison: I have heard that that is true. I wouldn't be surprised if it was.

Mr. Johnson: Will you inquire into that?

Mr. Allison: I can find out definitely.

Mr. Johnson: How long ago was it that the abduction of the child, as spoken of yesterday, occurred?

Mr. Allison: That was on October 4, 1916.

Mr. Johnson: Where was the dead body of the child found?

Mr. Allison: Out at 16th and Broadway, on a dump.

Mr. Johnson: Headless when it was found?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Was the head ever found?

Mr. Allison: Yes; the head was afterwards found-- quite a while afterwards.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know whether or not any woman ever made any confession concerning her criminal connection with that tragedy?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Johnson: What was her name?

Mr. Allison: Sylvia Upton. And another woman was a Miss Droit. I don't know what her name was.

Mr. Johnson: Where did these two women live at that time?

Mr. Allison: They lived-- had a resort adjoining this Magarin property.

Mr. Johnson: Who owned the houses in which that resort was kept?

Mr. Allison: I don't know who owned that property.

Mr. Johnson: Can you find out?

Mr. Allison: I can possibly find out through Mr. Magarin.

Mr. Johnson: You will, however, ascertain who owned the property at that time and come back and advise the committee?

Mr. Allison: Yes, I will try to do that.

Mr. Johnson: Who was the chief of detectives here at that time?

Mr. Allison: Mr. Stocker.

Mr. Johnson: Was there a detective agency either here or at St. Louis, a private detective agency, of which a man by the name of Grigsby was the head?

Mr. Allison: It was here and is yet.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know who was associated with him in that detective agency?

Mr. Allison: I understand Mr. Stocker was a partner in the business.

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Mr. Johnson: And was at the time of the tragedy of this child, of which we have spoken?

Mr. Allison: I understand so; yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: What detective, if you know, gained the real information concerning that? Were they not post office inspectors?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: Do you remember the names of any of those detectives?

Mr. Allison: Well, I know one man who was prominent in it.

Mr. Johnson: What is his name?

Mr. Allison: Runsen.

Mr. Johnson: Does he live in St. Louis?

Mr. Allison: He lives here. His office is here. I believe he lives in Belleville.

Mr. Johnson: Did the United States detectives from the Post Office Department unearth that thing and ascertain the names of those who were likely guilty of the offense?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Do you remember the names of those who were believed to be certainly guilty of that crime?

Mr. Allison: Len Droit, or Lenox Droit, Annie Sullivan, Danny Sullivan-- a character by the name of "Danny" Sullivan-- and Campbell were the names of the men, and then these women that were implicated.

Mr. Johnson: And I wish to impress upon you the request that you secure the name of the owner of the house in

which those women lived at that time? Were the parties to whom you have just referred indicted?

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Mr. Allison: They were.

Mr. Johnson: What became of the indictments?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know just what became of them. It seemed as though the thing was smothered up-- they were tried and acquitted, I am informed. I was under the impression that the thing was railroaded some way.

Mr. Johnson: Who was the prosecuting attorney in the case?

Allison:

Mr. ~~Raxhtax~~ Mr. Schaumleffel for this county. Mr. ~~Varth~~ had something to do with it too.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Schaumleffel was prosecuting attorney for this county at that time, and that offense was committed in this county?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: Have you either knowledge or information as to the character of the prosecution conducted by Mr. Schaumleffel, as to whether it was vigorous or not?

Mr. Allison: I have not.

Mr. Johnson: Did one or both of the women whose names you have called confess to complicity in the crime?

Mr. Allison: I am not sure as to the names. There were two confessions, one by Sylvia Upton and one by one of the other women-- I think it was the Franz woman. She committed suicide.

Mr. Johnson: What became of the other one?

Mr. Allison: I don't know.

Mr. Johnson: Was anybody ever convicted in connection with it?

Mr. Allison: No one at all.

Mr. Johnson: Have you any knowledge or information as to whether or not the local chief of detectives when called upon to work up that case referred those who were urging him to do so-- as to whether he referred them to the Grigsby Detective Agency?

Mr. Allison: I have heard that is true.

Mr. Johnson: And if that were true, instead of rendering a service for which the public paid, somebody would have to pay the Grigsby Detective Agency special fees?

Mr. Allison: I have heard that Mr. Stocker suggested to Mr. Magarin that he put up a sum-- \$300 or \$400-- and Grigsby would be able to unravel it for him.

Mr. Johnson: Admitting that he could not, but that Grigsby might?

Mr. Allison: Yes, I understand that he told Mr. Magarin that he didn't have the funds to go into the thing.

Mr. Johnson: And if Mr. Stocker was a partner in the firm of Grigsby, then he would get part of the money paid?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Johnson: Did Mr. Rodenburg and Mr. Schaurleffel make races for their respective official positions in the same election?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Allison Johnson: Do you know by what majority

Mr. Rodenburg carried this county?

Mr. Allison: I do not.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know by what majority at the same election Mr. Schaumleffel carried this county?

Mr. Allison: I don't know the exact majorities. I know there was some difference.

Mr. Johnson: Is it not true that Mr. Rodenburg in that election carried the county by only 80-some-odd majority, and Mr. Schaumleffel carried the county at the same election by 1600 majority; and both of them republican nominees?

Mr. Allison: I know there was a difference in the majorities.

Mr. Johnson: Which received the greater majority?

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Mr. Allison: Mr. Schaumleffel.

Mr. Johnson: Have you any theory by which you can account for that difference?

Mr. Allison: I heard-- it was common talk here among men who know the political situation that there was a swapping off between the crooks in both parties.

Mr. Johnson: Explain that a little more in detail.

Mr. Allison: Well, I will just name the names.

Mr. Johnson: That is the way to do it.

Mr. Allison: There are certain men here in political circles--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing:) Name them if you know.

Mr. Allison: Eddie Miller.

Mr. Johnson: Who is he?

Mr. Allison: He is prominent in republican politics here in East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson: Has he ever held any positions with Mr. Rodenburg? Hasn't he been his secretary?

Mr. Allison: I don't know about that; he may have been. I know he has been prominent in politics.

Mr. Johnson: Where does Eddie live now?

Mr. Allison: He lives here in East St. Louis. I know that prominent republicans charged him, Eddie Miller, and his ward heelers, with throwing the party.

Mr. Johnson: The republican party?

Mr. Allison: The republican party, and swapping off with this Levee Board here. It is a fact of that election that up here in Brooklyn, which is wholly a negro town, the democratic levee board carried Brooklyn by a big majority, while Mr. Wilson only got 80 votes, I think.

Mr. Johnson: That was in Brooklyn?

Mr. Allison: That was in Brooklyn.

Mr. Cooper: 80 votes or 80 majority?

Mr. Allison: 80 votes. The Presidential returns, as I remember them, were something like 800 votes up there.

Mr. Johnson: Do you remember whether or not Mr. Rodenburg got every one of those votes in Brooklyn at that election?

Mr. Allison: I don't remember. I wouldn't be surprised but what he did.

Mr. Johnson: Upon what theory do you account for Mr. Schaumleffel getting 1600 or 1700 more votes in this county than Mr. Rodenburg got?

Mr. Allison: Well, there is only one way to account for it, and that is collusion between these leaders in these two parties.

Mr. Johnson: Why would they want to give Mr. Schaumleffel more votes than they would any other republican nominee?

Mr. Allison: I have only one idea. They were just going to be sure that he went across.

Mr. Johnson: Why would the people of the opposite political faith want to be sure that he went across?

Mr. Allison: Well, they were interested in the operation of that office, no doubt, in future days.

Mr. Johnson: And what were the functions of that office?

Mr. Allison: The prosecution of criminals.

Mr. Johnson: So it is your idea that there were certain people here in West St. Louis who were interested in the prosecutions before your Circuit Court up at your county seat?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; I am satisfied of that.

Mr. Johnson: And their interest was, of course, that they would want to see every guilty person convicted?

Mr. Allison: Well, only on one condition; if he didn't support them, of course they would see that he was gotten out of the way.

Mr. Johnson: But I said "every guilty person".

Mr. Allison: Oh no, they always take care of their friends.

Mr. Foster: Who was the democratic candidate for State's Attorney in that election?

Mr. Allison: Charles Webb.

Mr. Cooper: If there is a crooked political machine, it is absolutely necessary to the successful working out of their crookedness that they have the office of the prosecuting attorney, isn't it, as their friend?

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Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: If there is an honest, fearless, able, determined prosecutor, determined to enforce the law, no matter who may be guilty of offenses, these crooked machines can't work, can they?

Mr. Allison: They cannot. It is clearly illustrated in the Madison County office of State's Attorney, Mr. Struber.

Mr. Cooper: To get things done in this county, you had to go to the State officials, didn't you, really, the Attorney General's office?

Mr. Allison: Well, the only convictions that I have seen in this County, of anything that seemed to be like great public importance since I have been here, have been through the operations of the Attorney General's office.

Mr. Cooper: No, really, is it your judgment that in many respects the most important office in the County is the office of the prosecuting attorney in a place like this?

Mr. Allison: It is, undoubtedly.

Mr. Cooper: For enforcing the law. That is what I mean.

Mr. Allison: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Cooper: And grafters in office and grafters out of office know that, don't they?

Mr. Allison: They do. Another thing equally important is the sheriff's office, because he has the subpoenaing of the jurors, the grand jurors and the petit jurors.

Mr. Cooper: But the prosecuting officer has control of the prosecution?

Mr. Allison: He has.

Mr. Cooper: And he can expose the sheriff and make him come to the front?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: But the sheriff has no authority over the prosecuting officer. When he goes into court he can nolle a case if he wishes to?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: He can represent to the court that there is a failure of evidence. In other words he can, if he wishes to, deliberately betray the interests of the people, and nobody will be able to detect that fact?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: Present indictments and everything else, can't he?

Mr. Allison: He can; yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: If he doesn't nolle them, he can half way

prosecute?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Pretend to be vigorous after he has dropped out the testimony that is certain to convict and then be very vehement on that that is no account whatever?

Mr. Allison: The office of supervisors, too. They have their important part to play here.

Mr. Johnson: They are selected by the county judges, are they not?

Mr. Allison: No, they are elected.

Mr. Johnson: That/^{do} you call the officers that supervise the assessment valuations?

Mr. Allison: Board of Review. Now the supervisors are important factors in the prosecution of crimes. They select the names that go into the hat, the names that are to be drawn out to make up these grand juries, petit juries, and when we have supervisors such as some of the gentlemen we have had-- for instance, one of our supervisors down here was apprehended and indicted-- I don't what became of it-- as being a "front" for stolen automobiles.

Mr. Johnson: Did you not speak of another yesterday who was conducting a saloon and assignation house?

Mr. Allison: Koenigstein out here.

Mr. Johnson: That was the name of the one you say was conducting a "ferce" for stolen automobiles?

Mr. Allison: I think the name was Harrington.

Mr. Johnson: Are they still in office, both of them?

Mr. Allison: I think so. And one of these supervisors, I am told, was convicted for the murder of Mr. Coppedge.

Mr. Johnson: Which one?

Mr. Allison: A colored man, Fayette Parker.

Mr. Cooper: A colored man?

Mr. Allison: Fayette Parker was a colored man who was supervisor.

Mr. Johnson: There has been much testimony before this Committee concerning a speech made on the night of May 26th last by Mr. Alexander Flannigan, and the whole testimony has gone in one direction, that Mr. Flannigan's speech was quite inflammatory, and that as a direct result of that inflammatory speech, negroes were assaulted by a mob almost immediately upon the conclusion of his speech. Do you know whether or not there has been a grand jury investigation conducted by Mr. Schaumleffel or Mr. anybody else concerning the character of that speech, and the probable result of that speech?

Mr. Allison: None whatever.

Mr. Johnson: Have you either knowledge or information, or is there rumor concerning it, to the effect that Mr. Schaumleffel prevented the indictment or managed conditions so that Mr. Flannigan wouldn't be indicted?

Mr. Allison: I have not.

Mr. Johnson: Have you either knowledge or information, or have you come across any rumors to the effect that any court official of this county or of this judicial district,

connived at the plan of not indicting Mr. Flannigan?

Mr. Allison: I have not come across that; no, sir.

Mr. Johnson: The Committee will subpoena some witnesses on that subject.

Mr. Allison: I have heard a great deal of dissatisfaction from a great many sources-- prominent men, good men-- because something hadn't been done with Mr. Flannigan for that alleged speech, and that utterance especially.

Mr. Johnson: Well, do you not think that Mr. Flannigan's speech, as bad as some people have stated it, becomes a trivial thing in comparison to any officer conniving at a plan whereby his indictment would not be brought about, if such a thing ~~could~~ be true?

Mr. Allison: Most assuredly so.

Mr. Cooper: What was the motive for the killing, as you understand it-- the kidnapping and killing of that little child, the beheading of it?

Mr. Allison: Because this man Magarin had undertaken to run these folks out of that building. It was a house of prostitution and he undertook to run it out of there. This woman was notorious in conducting houses of prostitution. She had occupied the property of Mr. Florence--

Mr. Baker (Interposing:) Which woman was that?

Mr. Allison: This Breit woman.

Mr. Baker: She had occupied property belonging to Mr. Florence?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; assistant chief of detectives.

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Mr. Baker: And he is the man who was indicted and tried for the murder of another officer who had pulled a house belonging to this same Mr. Florence?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Baker: Now this prostitute-- what was her name?

Mr. Allison: Droit.

Mr. Baker: And she was arrested in connection with the murder of this child?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Is she the one that afterwards committed suicide?

Mr. Allison: No; it was a ^{woman} ~~girl~~ by the name of Franz that committed suicide.

Mr. Baker: Was she arrested in connection with this abduction and murder?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; and she made the confession. The Franz woman made a confession also, the same as the Upton woman made a confession.

Mr. Baker: Now there were three prostitutes arrested?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And two of the prostitutes confessed?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Baker: And two of the prostitutes confessed what?

Mr. Allison: Confessed that this child was kidnapped; that these men did do it. They told the particulars, the details, of how it was done, and the whole thing, the kidnapping of the child, the killing of the child.

Mr. Baker: And they both committed suicide?

Mr. Allison: No; just the Franz woman committed suicide.

Mr. Baker: Is she the first one that confessed?

Mr. Allison: No, I think the Upton girl was the first one to confess.

Mr. Baker: Well, is it definitely known that she committed suicide, or was she murdered-- the Franz woman?

Mr. Allison: She committed suicide. That is the claim.

Mr. Baker: Well, was it definitely established at an inquest that she committed suicide?

Mr. Allison: I think so.

Mr. Baker: Now you say that one of these prostitutes who confessed to this murder of this little child was the same woman who had previously occupied a building belonging to this Mr. Florence?

Mr. Allison: No. Now this Droit woman-- she was the woman who operated the place of prostitution in which this Upton girl and the Franz woman were inmates; and it is the Droit woman who previously occupied a building controlled by Florence.

Mr. Baker: That is what I wanted to get out clearly. Did you ever hear of a letter which was sent east to some of the men-- prominent men-- that is, prominent in the sense of being financially interested in some of the big plants here, and asking them to try to do something to better the conditions of laboring men, employes generally, in this city; and

about a reply coming back, a letter, saying that they were more interested in profits than they were in men?

Mr. Allison: No, I don't know about that, but I do know about the thing I spoke of yesterday, that an appeal was made to some of the big interests to undertake some sort of social service work here in East St. Louis, and they replied by saying they had no such interest in East St. Louis. That project that we were trying to establish was a day nursery.

Mr. Raker: Did they say what they were interested in in this city?

Mr. Allison: No, but the facts in the case are that they have a financial interest here.

Mr. Raker: Anything else?

Mr. Allison: The facts in this case are that they have no other interest save a financial interest.

Mr. Raker: I understand you to say, then, that you don't know who owned the building occupied by the prostitutes and the keeper of the house of prostitution at the time of the kidnapping and killing of this little child?

Mr. Allison: I do not.

Mr. Raker: You have spoken about the State's Attorney or prosecutor, the kind or character of the surroundings, and the effect that it would have upon him in his future work in prosecuting criminal cases, particularly those who were really guilty, and the effect it would have upon securing their acquittal.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

3 Mr. Baker: You recognize that the District Attorney, corrupt, could take the strongest case on earth-- unless he is forced by public opinion or some other means, to leave out part of the evidence, fail to subpoena witnesses when it comes to trial, by which the best case that could be had against the man to convict him would turn the other way?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And still make a showing that he is trying to do something? Now doesn't it have another side that is more horrible yet and more dangerous in that innocent people charged with offenses, for blackmail, for all other kinds of purposes, are compelled to yield and give up rights and property and money, rather than to be put in the clutches of such a district attorney?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Baker: It is really more horrible than the fact that he don't prosecute those that are actually bound over or charged with crime? Isn't that so?

Mr. Allison: That is true. Now the general public here can be lashed by every one, possibly because of their indifference to things here, but that very condition is responsible for the subdued spirit of the good people of this country. They have seen case after case that was plain outstanding evidence of guilt, and they have seen those cases come to the courts and seen them scattered and railroaded, and men cleared who were guilty; and the good people have become disgusted.

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Mr. Raker: Thinkin' that if they even open their mouths, or say anything, that they themselves could be picked up and with a gang like this, any man's life, liberty or his reputation or his honor could be ruined by such a district attorney, with the gang that he could get to testify against him? Isn't that true?

Mr. Allison: That is true.

Mr. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Raker: Isn't that a more dreadful thing to contend against ^{than} ~~than~~ even the other side, so far as to intimidate people and deprive them of their property is concerned?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: When I use the term "District Attorney", that is what we call them in the Western States, and they call them here "State's Attorney". I mean the prosecuting officer.

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Raker: The prosecuting officer for the county, not for the city. I am talking about the prosecutor for St. Clair County, known here as "State's Attorney", and I called him "District Attorney." I mean the same thing. That is what you meant?

Mr. Allison: That is what I mean. And to show you the effect of that now, in ^{my} thinking-- I weighed this whole thing through. When that threat came to me that they were going to put me "off watch", as they put it, I knew as well as I lived-- just to show you the confidence-- they could have killed me on Monday morning and been cleared by this

machinery of the courts here before Saturday night, with such a State's attorney, with such a regime as they have here.

Mr. Baker: And they could have gotten plenty of witnesses to come in here and testify not only to anything, but that you were the aggressor, and the man had to kill you for self defense?

Mr. Allison: Certainly. I have one of their plans that was given to me through secret service. There was a certain fellow who was to meet me on the street and to feign intoxication and bump into me and knock me off of the walk, with the idea that I would strike him. They had a pretty good idea I would do it, and their idea might not have been far from right. But that was the idea, to get a fight, and then for him to knife me.

Mr. Baker: And have somebody present to say that you actually attacked him, and he had to kill you in self defense?

Mr. Allison: Certainly. And I want to take this opportunity to pay a public compliment to Attorney General Brundage, who sent word into this county, and it went the rounds, that the miscreant who would dare to assault me would be hunted down, found and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law by the Attorney General's office of the State of Illinois. And I am frank to tell you that I think that is the only thing that has given me the right to be here today.

Mr. Baker: Well, you felt that was necessary and you are satisfied Mr. Brundage thought it was necessary to go over the head of the local authorities?

Mr. Allison: I am sure Mr. Brundage thought it was necessary or he wouldn't have done it.

Mr. Baker: I am going to give a few moments to the bar of East St. Louis and ask you in regard to it.

Are there many attorneys here?

Mr. Allison: Many.

Mr. Baker: Is there any way a list could be had and their names to be inserted in the record?

Mr. Allison: I think any telephone directory would give you the classified list.

Mr. Baker: What I am trying to get at-- if you don't know I will find out from someone else-- do you know whether or not any of them belong to the Illinois Bar Association?

Mr. Allison: I think the president of the Illinois Bar Association-- at one time president of it, Judge E. C. Kramer-- lives here.

Mr. Baker: Well, what I am getting at-- the president of the Bar Association used to live here?

Mr. Allison: He does live here. He is either president now or used to be president of the Bar Association of the State of Illinois, Judge E. C. Kramer.

Mr. Baker: Now could you tell-- if you can't, why say so-- whether or not there are any of these attorneys members of the State Bar Association of Illinois, outside of Judge Kramer?

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Mr. Allison: I don't know about that.

Mr. Baker: And you don't, of course, know whether any of them are members of the National Bar Association?

Mr. Allison: No, sir, I do not.

Mr. Baker: Well, whether they are or not I will find out later. Do you know whether or not any effort has been made by the Bar Association or by the local members of the Bar, to investigate the conduct of Attorney Flannigan, Alexander Flannigan, as to what he had done on the 28th of May this year, in relation to these riots?

Mr. Allison: I know of no effort that has been made to investigate. I have heard a great many statements of disapproval and disgust.

Mr. Baker: I know, we have heard that, but what I want to know now-- there is another jurisdiction and tribunal beyond the police court and city court and district court, and any of the courts. That is the Supreme Court of the state of Illinois, to the highest court of appeal in this State, if Alexander Flannigan is a member of that court, and you understand he is?

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Mr. Allison: I think he is.

Mr. Baker: You say you know of no effort on the part of the attorneys here to take any action against Mr. Flannigan relative to disbarring him?

Mr. Allison: I know of nothing.

Mr. Baker: You concede that that would be a punishment almost as severe, if not more so, than the fact that of arresting him for inciting a riot?

Mr. Allison: I don't mind to say this, that it would be a blessing to the community.

Mr. Baker: Can you tell me now-- and I want the members to hear it-- can you explain why the members of the St. Clair County Bar, the lawyers here, haven't taken up that matter?

Mr. Allison: I hadn't thought of that, because I am not familiar with that kind of procedure; but I can see now, since you have brought it to my mind, if these attorneys here know that that thing can be done, I am astonished to know that it hasn't been done and been done long ago.

Mr. Baker: Well, if you would read the duty of an attorney, what he swears to on his oath, and then read if it is true what has been said here of Alexander Flannigan, it is almost astounding to think that the Bar themselves here in East St. Louis haven't taken it up; and xxx if they didn't do that, then have the State Bar Association take it up so that proceedings could be had against a member of the profession who proceeds under the right of a license by the Supreme Court of the State. Would the attorneys in this city be cowed and browbeaten by the same conditions that surround the rest of the people?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know about that. There is something wrong, evidently.

Mr. Baker: Now, on the same condition, irrespective of prosecution by the State or indictment by the Grand Jury, it has been stated here that the present State's

Attorney, Mr. Schaumleffel, sat in his automobile and watched and saw one of these negroes being dragged to death upon the streets upon the 2nd of July: Nothing was done. It has been further stated that when the Attorney-General came down here not a witness was ready for the Grand Jury; no effort was made. It has been further stated that Mr. Schaumleffel appeared before Justice Clark and advised and directed-- not only advised, but directed-- that 89 or 90 rioters that had been caught in the hollow square and taken over to jail, be turned loose. And with the knowledge you have given us, and others, about his conduct, together with his knowledge of these things, can you give us any reason why the State Bar Association of Illinois, as well as the Bar Association of this County, has not taken proceedings against Mr. Schaumleffel to disbar him?

Mr. Allison: I see no reason.

Mr. Baker: I am talking about prosecuting now. Isn't that curious? You stated now-- and I think it is true-- that the greatest lever for good and the protection of the people in their rights is a vigorous-- as you stated to Mr. Cooper-- strong, energetic, fearless, State's Attorney?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: But these all have been shown to the contrary, so far as the evidence has been presented as to Mr. Schaumleffel, and nothing has been done with him. And on the same hand, you know of no proceedings having been taken to indict him or to take the statutory proceedings against him, whether to dismiss him from his

office because of malfeasance in office, or to impeach him?

Mr. Allison: I know that that thing has been under way from a certain source, but not from the Bar Association.

Mr. Johnson: If it would not be against public policy not to say so, the Committee would be glad to have the source from which this movement has been started, with the view that the Committee might get information from that source.

Mr. Allison: I would be glad to give it to you confidentially. I would rather not give it in a public way.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if it is going to hinder the furtherance of the execution of law here, the Committee does not want you to make it public.

Mr. Allison: I would like to have a conference with the source from which this thing is coming.

Mr. Johnson: Very well.

Mr. Baker: But there is no effort, so far as you know, from the attorneys in East St. Louis to take this Source?

Mr. Allison: No, I know of one attorney here who knew of this movement coming, and who had a conference with me to see that the thing was headed off.

Mr. Baker: Stopped?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Just give his name.

Mr. Allison: Attorney Jerry Sullivan.

Mr. Raker: This is the same Jerry Sullivan that you have been talking about?

Mr. Allison: He is Corporation Counsel for the City of East St. Louis.

Mr. Raker: And also in some way related to the Levee Board?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Now where is this property that Dr. Little owns?

Mr. Allison: Immediately to the rear of this building.

Mr. Raker: Where we are now?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir. It is called the Eagle Building.

Mr. Raker: How long has that building been used as you have stated?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know. It has been used so long that way that it has become commonly known to be that sort of a place.

Mr. Raker: The same kind and character of a place as you have described the hotels?

Mr. Allison: Well, only there isn't a bar in connection with this.

Mr. Raker: All the rest is the same?

Mr. Allison: I suppose it is, yes.

Mr. Baker: The doctor, I think, is one of the Committee of 100, isn't he?

Mr. Allison: I am not sure. I think he is. Yes, I am sure of that.

Mr. Baker: And Mr. Sullivan, the lawyer you spoke about, is a member of the Committee of 100, isn't he?

Mr. Allison: No, I think that is another Sullivan. Another Sullivan, a grocer. That is D. J. Sullivan. The attorney is D. J. Sullivan, called "Jerry Sullivan". I remember his conversation with me was that by all means ^{not} Schaumleffel must be disbarred, and he said he would see Schaumleffel, and this and that.

Mr. Baker: Well, what was he going to see Schaumleffel about?

Mr. Allison: He spoke as though he was going to help ~~at~~ him straighten up.

Mr. Johnson: What do you mean by "straighten up"?

Mr. Allison: Well, sober up, I guess. Schaumleffel has the reputation of being quite a booze-fighter.

Mr. Baker: D. J. Sullivan is the one on the list.

Mr. Allison: Well, Dan Sullivan is a grocer. That is a different man-- a wholesale ice man instead of a grocer.

Mr. Baker: Now so that the matter might be cleared up, there was something said here about some of the real bad places were closed up along at the beginning of the year. Was that on account of any of the officials here in East St. Louis, or was it on account of Judge Landis coming down here, and he held a term of court and took the thing up so strong and vigorous that they did close up a few?

7 Mr. Allison: Oh, there is no question about the wholesome effect of Judge Landis' vigorous way of going after them: It had a wholesome effect.

Mr. Raker: He did really go after them with hammer and tongs?

Mr. Allison: He certainly did, and he did it right in the midst of a movement here when we were organizing, and the citizens were beginning to demand Sunday closing. Right in the midst of that Judge Landis made this vigorous portrayal here of the laxity of law and the utter disregard for an official oath, and the unscrupulous methods that were being employed; and of course that gave our movement a wholesome impetus.

Mr. Raker: And you attribute that act of Judge Landis as having been the mainspring of really what was accomplished, and not anything by the city officials?

Mr. Allison: Oh, it didn't emanate from those gentlemen: There is no question about that. And the way they have halted and hesitated and fronted and refused to eliminate men from office whom they knew were guilty; and the way they refused to handle some cases-- why, I am fairly convinced that there was no disposition on the part of those gentlemen to really do anything of a lasting and permanent good for the city.

Mr. Foss: When was the Judge here? About what time?

Mr. Allison: Well, I got so interested in his spectacular attack, I will have to stop and think. It was in the fall before Mr. Mollman's campaign for reelection last

spring. It was in the Fall of 1916.

Mr. Foss: A year ago?

Mr. Allison: Yes. It was in the Fall of 1916.

Mr. Foss: He was holding court here at that time?

Mr. Allison: He was holding court here, and called Mr. Vollman in and the members of the police force. He revealed the fact that one of the police force was an employe of Heim's Brewery. Well, he just went after it in a Landis fashion.

Mr. Baker: From the bench?

Mr. Allison: From the bench.

Mr. Baker: Was any case pending, or did the Judge just take that occasion to assist the people here?

Mr. Allison: He just took that occasion to assist the folks here. I don't know just how he came to call them in, but he had them in there, and the chief of police and all, and asked them about their enforcement of law. I think it came up in reference to some liquor cases he had. And then he called these gentlemen in and had there before him a negro that had been convicted, and that he was ready to sentence to the penitentiary. I think that was the way of it, and he called these gentlemen in to show them the fruits of their lack of enforcement of the liquor laws; and it was giving them a good lecture with the concrete illustration before them.

Mr. Baker: You say you think there are off and on crap games going on in the city yet?

Mr. Allison: Yes, I hear of them. And then I see

men around town who make that their business.

Mr. Raker: Who are crap experts?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Who make their living that way?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: The police or constables or State's Attorney are taking no action against these people?

Mr. Allison: Nothing at all.

Mr. Raker: Well, a man in that position, going around, if that is his business, could be arrested; and it is his duty to arrest him as a vagrant, isn't he it? That's what he is, a clean-cut vag?

Mr. Allison: Well, there could be several arrests here in town most any day.

Mr. Raker: That is the astonishing feature to me, and I have been asking the witnesses, and some have been trying to tell us things are getting so good; things have changed so much for the better since they have had this riot, and so on-- just lovely.

Mr. Allison: It is the same old situation exactly.

Mr. Raker: Now let me ask you this question: It is possible that all this evidence and all this publicity, that all this band of officers who are now in office, treating the people's money, are still permitting this thing to exist right under their eyes today?

Mr. Allison: Why, as an illustration of it, while you are here in this city, they take street employees, men who are paid by the taxpayers of this city-- they take those

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men and throw them into a political campaign to try to win it. Now that is an evidence of it; and the fact that they are right now planning to ^{oust} ~~run~~ the present police board that is here, who are trying to enforce the law; and these men are, and there are not better men in the city of East St. Louis than Dr. Reed and W. J. Coffey and Mr. Giesing down here; and they couldn't get a better man than Mr. Keating, who is chief of police. And the fact that those fellows now-- and one of their plans is this: Now here is their plan-- it will give them a chance to deny it, but it is so-- and one of their plans was: They told a gambler to go within a block of Mr. Keating's home and establish a gambling house and operate it, and said to him "Don't be afraid of the police; we'll take care of you when the time comes. We want to be able to say to this town, 'Here is your chief Keating; here he is with a big gambling house within a block of his home.'" Now that is their plan. These gentlemen are impervious to any sort of motive that is actuated by a desire to make this town clean, and this city is exactly as it was before the riot, save that we are cleaning up on the surface; but the very roots of the thing that produced this condition are still slumbering in our civic life. It is like an old tree cut down, but ready to sprout up again.

I was appealed to here some time ago about the negroes coming back into East St. Louis, and I have said this to
 9 negroes and said it to anybody else, I refused to be a party to setting the stage for another riot or another

condition as we have had. We have got to dig the roots of this old civic proposition entirely out. We will be building our house on sand if we don't do it.

Mr. Foster: May I ask who appealed to you to bring these negroes back?

Mr. Allison: I have been appealed to by a lot of the colored people about coming back, wanting to know if it was safe. Then I have been appealed to in different ways by people who are interested. One of the things that astounded me, gentlemen, was last year, even on the 4th of July, after the riot on the 2nd, the corporations of this town were intensely interested to get those colored men back here at once for the sake of operating their plants.

Mr. Johnson: Regardless of what the consequences might be?

Mr. Allison: Regardless of the consequences. Of course they were asking that the soldiers protect the negroes. They were trying to get General Dixon to say he would protect them, and all that, and bring them back in here for the operation of those plants. Now that is one severe criticism that I have against these men, and it is not so much against the men who are here, because the men who are here are the paid employes of these corporations, and the men who are here that operate these plants live over in St. Louis, most of them. Some of them live on this side. A lot of them are good fellows and all that, but the man higher up is the fellow, I suppose, who hounds them.

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Mr. Foster: That do you know about asking protection to escort these negroes from the bridge to the plants, trying to get militia to do that?

Mr. Allison: That was asked to be done. I heard that over and over, all sorts of protection.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know who asked it, and of whom it was asked?

Mr. Allison: Well, it was a general appeal that came in from different heads of different corporations. It came in before our committees who were investigating these things.

Mr. Foster: Do you know whether Mr. Nagel, ex-Secretary Nagel, was connected with it or not?

Mr. Allison: I don't know whether he was or not. I saw the gentleman here the other day on the stand, and I know I have seen him, and I remember his face in connection with that, but I don't remember any connection that he may have had.

Mr. Foss: Do you know of a committee being sent here, a committee of colored people, from St. Louis, meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and asking whether or not it would be safe for the negroes to come back?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; I was one of the members of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce who was appointed to meet them and confer with them.

Mr. Foss: How many were there in that committee of the colored people?

Mr. Allison: As I remember it, possibly six or seven.

Mr. Foss: Well, what did they ask?

Mr. Allison: They were trying to ascertain if it would be safe for them to come back; and stated that they wanted to get to their homes; that many of the people over in St. Louis had left their homes and all of their belongings, and they were wondering if their belongings were going to be protected-- their household furniture and their clothes and things of that kind. It was simply an appeal for assistance, and that they might have a square deal. That is just about all.

Mr. Foss: What was said to them, and by whom?

Mr. Allison: I remember I spoke to them. I told them I thought they had better stay in St. Louis for a few days; that they had better not come back while the blood was so hot and feeling running so high. I told them that we would make an honest effort, which we did, to try to see that their rights were taken care of. But it was a hopeless task.

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Mr. Foss: Did any other person talk with them besides you after that meeting?

Mr. Allison: I remember of one or two other men who went out with me. I forget just who they were. And talked with them. It was this committee of negroes-- Reverend Wallace was a member of the committee-- this same committee of negroes out of which that conversation grew between Reverend Wallace and Mr. Johns about Mr. Pundy

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having double-crossed the labor unions.

Mr. Foss: Was Mr. Johns at the meeting too?

Mr. Allison: Mr. Johns was at that meeting.

Mr. Foss: Did he say anything, make any remarks?

Mr. Allison: He was making the remarks, such remarks as I have said, when I was called out of the room to meet someone else. I forget just what the occasion was, but I remember I was called out, and I didn't get to hear all of the statements, and that is why I suggested that Mr. Johns be given an opportunity to clarify that point as to what that relationship was between Dr. Bundy and the labor unions.

Mr. Foss: Now yesterday you were giving us sort of a narrative on what took place on the 2nd of July-- that is, so far as you were concerned yourself?

Mr. Allison: Well, I didn't give all of it.

Mr. Foss: Now I would like very much to have you go on and cover the situation.

Mr. Foster: Before he begins that, may I ask one or two questions? Did you know of a committee coming up from the South as to getting these negroes back here, a committee?

Mr. Allison: A committee coming up from the South?

Mr. Foster: Asking that they be permitted to take the negroes that came from down there?

Mr. Allison: No, I know of no committee, but I know of two or three gentlemen who were here-- I think they live in the South-- who said that the South would be glad to have these negroes; that they had no interest in him being driven north or sent north; that they would be glad to have him.

Mr. Johnson: And those negroes that you saw here the other day were mighty anxious to get back south?

Mr. Allison: So they stated.

Mr. Johnson: And they stated it in a way that showed their sincerity?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; it made you believe it.

Mr. Foss: Now if you will go on with your statement--

Mr. Foster (Interposing:) Let me just say this, and then I am through: Did you know of the Greenville, Mississippi, board of trade, telegraphing up here that they would take those negroes who came from their locality back there, and pay their expenses, their transportation?

Mr. Allison: No; that is the first I have heard of that.

Mr. Foster: You didn't see it in the newspapers?

Mr. Allison: No, sir; I didn't read the newspapers much those days; I didn't have time.

Mr. Foster: That is all I wanted.

Mr. Foss: I think the last thing you told us about was about your attempt to rescue a woman over at the Relay Station that day.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; late that afternoon I went home--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing:) You mean July 2nd?

Mr. Allison: July 2nd. After I had the experience at Main and Broadway, in which I might have been pretty roughly handled, I knew there was no use of my staying

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11 downtown any longer. That was about six o'clock in the evening, and I was thoroughly disgusted and disheartened. Fire was breaking out and it seemed there was no disposition on the part of Colonel Tripp nor anyone else to stop the thing. I heard no commands, no threats-- there wasn't anything of a ringing soldier's command. Colonel Tripp was here in town with a little Palm Beach suit on. No one would have known that he was a military authority at all, and his whole bearing was one of affability: There wasn't anything of sternness or determinedness to stop the thing.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel Tripp stated that it was not expected of him and the president to go out in active charge of this sort of affair (laughter). Did you know that?

Mr. Allison: I didn't know that. I told him that I couldn't have come if I couldn't have come as a military man.

Mr. Baker: That day?

Mr. Allison: The next morning, I think it was, when he made the excuse-- I spoke to him about being here without any military bearing or without anything to suggest that he had military authority.

As I say, when I realized ^{that it looked} like the thing was going-- it was a wild hunt for negroes. That's what it was. Now you can talk about its being sane and collected and cool. I never saw any sane, collected nor cool crowds. I never saw one that looked like it was sane.

Mr. Foss: How many crowds did you see?

Mr. Allison: Well, I saw them all over town.

Mr. Foss: Well, groups of a dozen or two dozen men?

Mr. Allison: Well, early in the day they were just small groups-- eight or ten in a group-- and later in the day these groups would begin to get together. Finally they resulted-- I think in the last there were possibly about four or five groups, may be, anywhere from 50 to 200 in a group.

Mr. Foss: And they were moving up these alleyways?

Mr. Allison: They were out hunting for the negroes-- that is, hunting for negroes that they knew, possibly, were not armed and couldn't defend themselves. Nobody went to the "Bad Lands". I don't think they would have gotten the negroes down here in what was the real Black Valley. I don't think they would have gotten them. It was only the fire that they started over in there that got into it. I saw the mob and they stayed at a good safe distance.

I went home, as I say, about six o'clock, thoroughly disgusted. I was worn out. Just as I stepped on my ~~porch~~ porch, a fire wagon went by, and I have two boys, one thirteen and the other ten, and I saw them start out down the street after the fire wagon. I think they ought there was a fire somewhere near our place, and boy-like, they were headed for the fire. Well, I knew that fire apparatus was going down Broadway where all the shooting was. It was incessant. It was just like-- well, to give you some idea of the discharges of the guns, it was like some one had touched off a bunch of firecrackers. It was just incessant like that-- shooting. So when I saw my boys following that fire wagon

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off and lost in the crowd I went after them: I had gone home to stay, thoroughly disgusted. Well, I missed my boys, and I went clear on to the scene at Eighth and Broadway. I afterwards found out that they had turned off on another block and come on back home; but I got down here in the midst of that thing, when the Black Valley was burning. I saw a fellow with a blue shirt on mount up on some debris there, a smooth-faced fellow, and I would know him if I should ever see him, in Hell, I know, because I got a good look at his face. He mounted up on that pile of debris directing the crowd. He said "Now you fellows that have got guns, you get off up there towards the library. We are going to set fire over in here to these houses, and the fire will sweep up through there, and you get the sons of bitches as they run." "I saw negro women with children in their arms--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing:) Just there, have you seen those who have been indicted?

Mr. Allison: No, sir; I have not.

Mr. Johnson: I was going to ask whether or not you had recognized him among the indicted.

Mr. Allison: I have conferred with the police, and this man got away. The man who is a deputy sheriff, Mr. Roper, told me of the same man: We talked about him, and our description of the man tallied, and Mr. Roper said that he don't know where the fellow went to, but he was just swallowed up-- disappeared.

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Mr. Foss: Do you know whether he was a resident of the city or not?

Mr. Allison: I do not.

Mr. Foss: Do you say he was attired in a blue shirt?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: Were there a good many blue-shirt men active that day in these mobs?

Mr. Allison: Quite a good many of them.

Mr. Foss: Well, they wear that garb around here, do they, blue shirts?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Foss: It was not typical of any particular class at all?

Mr. Allison: Well, I wouldn't say that. This fellow looked as though he might be a foreman of a telephone gang, or some such man as that. There wasn't any-- some such work as that. I say "I saw those negro women with children in their arms. They would stay in by those houses, under the protection of those houses, till the heat from the fire would drive them out, and the moment the heat from the fire would drive them, they would shoot into those women and children, just like shooting rats: I don't know how many of them they killed, or anything about it. I saw the body of one negro lying in the street there at Eighth and Broadway, and I saw that not when a fire wagon drove up there, I saw them surge out into the street and ~~xxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~

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say "Have them drive over the son of a bitch." They tried to run the fire-wagon over that negro's body. You can't think of those things. //

Mr. Johnson: The negro was dead?

Mr. Allison: I don't know whether he was or not. He was lying quiet. I saw one white man-- I heard the bullets-- they were thick around there. You could hear their whistle and hear them flutter. A white man was shot within a few feet of me. //

Mr. Johnson: Who shot him?

Mr. Allison: I don't know. The bullet came from over in that direction, and struck him in the breast.

Mr. Johnson: Did you ever hear his name?

Mr. Allison: No.

Mr. Johnson: Was he killed?

Mr. Allison: I think he died. I afterwards learned that his name was Moore.

Mr. Foss: This was in the evening was it, along in the beginning of the evening?

13 Mr. Allison: It was getting dark then. That is, I heard that a man by the name of Moore was shot at that place and killed, and I just afterwards took it for granted that that was the man.

Mr. Johnson: Well, was it your opinion that he was just stopping a stray bullet, or somebody had shot him purposely?

Mr. Allison: Well, he was part of that mob. He was making a target of himself all right. Of course I

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might have been hit with one of those bullets.

Mr. Johnson: But now if he was part of the mob, then who, in your opinion was shooting at him?

Mr. Allison: Why it might have been the negroes in those homes. I don't think those negroes would have made very good soldiers. They weren't good marksmen or they would have gotten more of those fellows than they did. If they were armed, as the reports say they were armed, I don't see why there weren't scores of the white men killed, because there was every opportunity to do it, and on that very ground I take the position that a lot of those negroes ^{they} talk about having carloads of ammunition, and so many guns and all in these negro homes-- I think it is an infernal lie, because if those homes had been loaded with ammunition there would have been more white men killed than there were. You couldn't hardly have shot a gun toward that crowd without hitting some white man. It couldn't have been done.

Mr. Foss: Where did you go after that?

Mr. Allison: After hunting the boys I went home. I left that place and went home thoroughly disgusted. The whole sky was lit up red, and as a providential blessing all the wind had died down and it was still. If it hadn't been, the building we are in today would have gone, everything would have gone in here. It couldn't have stayed, because back of the Illinois Hotel over there are all those frame structures over there, veneered with brick fronts, and if that had caught fire with a good stiff wind coming

in here, the whole thing would have gone. It is just a God-send that the wind had gone down. I was surprised-- I went home and told my wife, and I never slept. I stayed up and watched because I told her the whole town would be burned before morning. Then the next morning I came downtown, and I was appealed to to help take care of the refugee negroes. They had about 1200 of them in the City Hall. Many of them were sent over to St. Louis.^{where} They had friends or relatives over there. Some of them were given transportation and sent out of town. The Red Cross was gotten in touch with, and they put forth every effort possible to feed them and give them what comforts they could. I think we had three or four cases of small pox up there in that room with all of them. They were taken out at once, and we arranged for the location and equipment of camps. We did everything we possibly could for them. Of course we were caught on the spur of the moment with no facilities to care for these things. The army had gathered about all the tents and cots and everything that were in existence anywhere, and we had difficulty in getting any sort of equipment. I know the corporations kept the men who were at their plants. They kept them there and fed them and took care of them through those days. It was one of the saddest scenes I ever saw, mothers separated from their children, husbands had lost their wives-- separated from them. They didn't know whether they were dead or living.

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Mr. Cooper: Some of those were old residents of the city?

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Mr. Allison: Old residents of the city, harmless as they could be.

Mr. Cooper: Respectable?

Mr. Allison: Respectable. Many of them owned their own property?

Mr. Foss: How many, in your judgment, were killed?

Mr. Allison: Anywhere from one to three hundred. God only knows how many.

Mr. Johnson: What could have become of them?

Mr. Allison: They were entirely cremated.

Mr. Johnson: I can't agree with you in that, because the houses were too fragile for that. It takes a terribly hot fire to burn up the bones of an adult.

Mr. Allison: But, take for instance this: I saw the remains, I think, the remains of three bodies in one building here. Now that was a fragile little building, but about all that was left of one of those bodies was just a short piece, just a very little of the spine. You could distinguish the vertebrae, but it was just about entirely consumed. It hadn't been a large person: Now of the adults possibly that is true, the thing you say, but what do you think of this: There are women who testified to seeing children picked up alive and thrown into a flaming home.

Mr. Johnson: Well, we have the testimony here of one such incident. I wouldn't take issue with anybody that that child might have been entirely consumed, but having some sort of notion as to the intense heat that it takes in a crematory, and having read of other houses that were

turned, in which adult people were caught, I am not prepared to accept the theory without certain and positive proof of it, that adults were entirely consumed so as to leave no trace in the fragile sort of houses that I have seen around here.

Mr. Allison: Now here is one instance. The man who took care of the horses and mules ~~for~~ the Hill-Thomas Lime and Cement Company, I don't think any trace at all was ever found of him. He let all of the live stock out of those barns. He had been there for years. He called up Mr. Thomas and said "I just called you up to tell you good-bye. I'm here in this barn and not going to leave. I've turned all the stock out. I'm going to stay here. I'm not going outside and be shot."

Mr. Baker: But it is within the range of possibility that he changed his mind about that when the place got hot?

Mr. Allison: No, he stayed there. He is not to be found anywhere. He was a crippled fellow with one leg. Nothing has ever been found of his body, not a thing. And here is another significant thing: In that Broadway Theatre there is no telling how many were in there, and the ruins of that have never been gone into.

Mr. Johnson: Well, I have reached the conclusion, from the testimony that has been offered here, particularly by Mr. Anderson, the newspaper man who went into the basement of that place, that nobody was burned in there.

Mr. Allison: Well, possibly not. I haven't investigated it.

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Mr. Johnson: Well, it was said-- stated here by Mr. Anderson, I believe, that he went into the basement there, and that for some time afterwards the first floor didn't fall through.

Mr. Allison: My statement is based upon this fact: Having looked upon that awful thing, and with the number of hours in which it ran, I can't conceive of the casualties being as low as they have been reported to have been: I can't see how it would be possible, with the number of shots that were fired.

Mr. Johnson: Well, it would be the exceptional case of anybody remaining in a burning house rather than to go out and take chances on being shot, wouldn't it?

Mr. Allison: Yes, it would be.

Mr. Johnson: That is because that is the least horrible death.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And that is so to the mind of anybody, even to the most ignorant. The instinct of self-preservation would drive him out of a burning house into an open volley of shots, if he knew they were going to fire?

Mr. Allison: I think that is true.

Mr. Cooper: Was there any reason why, if he were alive, he shouldn't show himself or let his family know where he was?

Mr. Allison: This man in the barn?

Mr. Cooper: Yes.

Mr. Allison: Oh, it was entirely surrounded, and everything was on fire around it, and it looked like there

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was no chance for escape.

Mr. Cooper: But suppose he should have escaped, there is no reason why he shouldn't have made himself known by this time?

Mr. Allison: Oh no, it looks like if he would have escaped he would have made himself known-- they would have known about it.

Mr. Cooper: He had a wife here to whom he telephoned?

Mr. Allison: No; it was the wife of the owner of the property.

Mr. Cooper: Is that a white woman?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: She says he telephoned to her?

Mr. Allison: Yes; I understand that.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know of any reason why, if he had been alive during the month which has intervened he shouldn't have made himself known to his old employer?

Mr. Allison: No reason at all. Every reason why he should have done it.

Mr. Johnson: Well, the thing is bad enough, horrible enough, but if he was burned, this man that you speak of was burned in that stable, and it seems probable that he was, that was an isolated case, and there weren't enough of them, in my judgment, to have run up into the hundreds.

Mr. Cooper: Some of those negro families have children, small children?

Mr. Allison: Yes. For one thing I have been endeavor-

ing to get hold of is a definite check on the number of missing, the unaccounted for. Now that could be done with some kind of a systematized effort. That could be done.

Mr. Johnson: I don't think that could be done unless you knew the places from which all these people came. You take the average colored negro, he would leave a Southern town and come here, and he would ^{not} be missed, and if he got back there, his return wouldn't be noticed. And it would be an impossibility, I think, to check them up from the standpoint of missing. Don't you agree with me there?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I do. I know that is so.

Mr. Foss: I suppose a good many of them left for St. Louis?

Mr. Allison: Oh, there were hordes of them.

Mr. Johnson: And from St. Louis they distributed to other places, in your judgment?

Mr. Allison: Well, most of them remained in the city, and since then a method has been established whereby they are brought back and forth by their employers over here.

Mr. Johnson: Well, that is not women and children?

Mr. Allison: No; that is the men.

Foss:

~~Mr. Johnson~~ Do you know how many now are being brought back and forth that way?

Mr. Allison: No; large numbers, though, two or three trainloads of them, I understand, morning and evening.

Mr. Foster: Well, wasn't it testified here by the

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men out at the packing plants that they did that for awhile, but they don't do it now?

Mr. Allison: I know that was done. I don't know whether it is being done now or not.

Mr. Foster: I think they testified that they had stopped doing that.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Allison, there was testimony before the Committee about a little girl, two and a half or three years old, dressed in a blue dress, with shoes on, who was never identified-- a colored girl-- and a bullet had been shot into the back of her head which did not-- the Coroner testified to this-- which did not go clear through and come out on the other side, showing that it, presumably-- almost certainly-- was fired from a cheap pistol, a low powered weapon; and we have the testimony also of an eye witness, a white man, that he saw a little boy about four years old, who was lying unconscious on the sidewalk, picked up and thrown back into a burning building, which building he saw consumed, a two-story structure. Those facts thoroughly established show, do they not, that that rot had no mercy whatever upon children, however small?

Mr. Allison: It was one of the most cruel things I ever witnessed.

Mr. Cooper: Now then, is there any way of finding out how many small children were caught in those burning buildings, or murdered and thrown back into them? Is there any way of telling how many children were killed there?

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Mr. Allison: There is not.

Mr. Cooper: How about the purchasing of these low-powered weapons, with soft bullets, as the Chairman suggests, these low-powered soft bullet affairs, cheap-- do you know whether they could, prior to that riot, have been purchased really, and at cheap prices, in this city?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I think they would have been easily obtained from most any of the pawnshops and other places.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know whether any regulations have been adopted by your City Council-- any ordinance passed-- which prevents or has prevented since the riots of July 2nd, or the occurrences of July 1st and 2nd and 3rd, the sale of such weapons in this town?

Mr. Allison: Nothing has been done about that, I don't think.

Mr. Cooper: So that today, any man can go into one of these places and buy one of these cheap pistols?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And get drunk?

Mr. Baker: He can't carry it, though, under the State law?

Mr. Allison: No; there is a law that he can't carry it.

Mr. Cooper: But if he carries it concealed, nobody knows that he has it?

Mr. Allison: Certainly not.

Mr. Cooper: Some of the judges are still doing busi-

ness?

Mr. Allison: Oh yes. The fact about the business is, that is one of the things that I censured Mayor Hollman for more than anything else, his laxity and indifference towards closing the saloons.

Mr. Cooper: Now Judge Baker asked you about the failure of the members of the Bar of this city, of the Bar Association, to take any steps towards the possible disbarment or rebuking of Mr. Flannigan, the man who made that exceedingly inflammatory speech on the night of May 28th. Some of these lawyers who are members of that Bar Association belong to the rings, don't they?

Mr. Allison: Well, I presume they do.

Mr. Cooper: Well, some of them own some of the dives, the buildings in which they are located?

Mr. Allison: Oh yes, there are lawyers here in town that own property rented for purposes of prostitution. I have been told about that.

Mr. Cooper: Could you expect a lawyer doing that sort of thing to be very active about prosecuting Mr. Flannigan? Flannigan could ^{come} back on him, couldn't he?

Mr. Allison: I would expect just such a condition as we have.

Mr. Cooper: Each afraid of the other, and both doing anything they pleased?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: And the taxpayer footing the bills?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: We know quite well that it is within the reach of the Committee to get the name of the foreman of the Grand Jury, together with the names of all the rest of the members of the recent grand jury in this county, but it would save us a little bit of trouble if you can give us the name of the foreman of the recent Grand Jury in this County.

Mr. Allison: I can't give you that name. The names ^{were all} are printed.

Mr. Johnson: Well, we can get it by sending the clerk up to the Court.

You said something about the local machines here swapping votes in the elections.

Mr. Cooper: The Podenburg and Tarlton machines.

Mr. Johnson: Tell us what you may know about that.

Mr. Allison: Well, all I know about it-- I have no definite, first-hand information, because I wasn't taken into their conferences. I only know of these things that we have gotten from the outside, the results of the election.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if you have been able to see the results, why we can pretty well ascertain the cause.

Mr. Allison: Well, I am sure there was some sort of collusion, because it was charged by the best men in both parties, on both sides.

Mr. Johnson: Now what sort of collusion was entered into, political collusion?

Mr. Allison: Well, I presume it was such a collusion

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as they would support each other.

Mr. Johnson: Well, go more specifically into it, if you can. Give names concerning whom the political trade was made, and who was at the head of each of the machines.

Mr. Allison: Well, now this Levee Board had a number of candidates for election on the Levee Board. Mr. Vollman is a member of the Levee Board. Mr. Canavan, Mr. Tarlton--

Mr. Foster (Interposing:): You say Mr. Vollman is a member of the Levee Board?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: How many members are there?

Mr. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Allison: Mr. Vollman was a member of the Levee Board; he is not now.

Mr. Johnson: That was not since he has become Mayor?

Mr. Allison: Yes; he was a member of the Levee Board during his first administration here as Mayor. It was just this last election that he was dropped from the list of candidates, and another man elected in his place.

Mr. Johnson: Who was elected in his place?

Mr. Allison: I don't know who. Mr. Miller, Mr. Eddie Miller, was the candidate ~~xxxx~~ that was charged as being the man through whom the manipulation was made with the forces of the republican party.

Mr. Johnson: And in who, would he be interested to have a political deal made?

Mr. Allison: Well, of course he would be interested in the general trend of things here in the city. He has always been referred to as the man who controlled the colored votes.

Mr. Cooper: In whose behalf?

Mr. Allison: In anybody's behalf that he would swing it to.

Mr. Foster: How would he control it?

Mr. Allison: Well, it is intimated that he bought it. You know I saw this scene one night. It was interesting to me-- just before election. It was after woman's suffrage had been given in this State. I drove my machine down on the night before the election, on Broadway, and stopped it directly in front of the Miller real estate office, and there was a large number of colored people around there, most all of them were men, and I was watching them. They were there for their final instructions and getting lined up for the election day's work. A colored woman came up there. She was very shabbily dressed; had no hat on, and looked like she was unkempt in her appearance-- had a pair of shoes that were all run over-- and she walked up there, and I heard one of the colored men say to her "What are you doing here?" She said "Why, man, I got a vote myself". (Laughter) So I suppose that she was there to see that she was taken care of when the plum was divided.

Mr. Baker: But there was only woman as compared with fifty or sixty men?

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Mr. Allison: Oh, 75 or more men around there, and this one woman: That is really a tribute to the colored women. There was only about one woman to 75 men.

Mr. Foster: They haven't had this right of vote, the suffrage, then, very long?

Mr. Allison: They hadn't had this right of suffrage long.

Mr. Johnson: I can ascertain the matter otherwise, but you can facilitate matters if you have any knowledge of it. Who besides a member of the Grand Jury, a witness and the State's Attorney, have access to the Grand Jury room while investigations are going on?

Mr. Allison: I am not familiar with that.

Mr. Johnson: Well, we can get it otherwise. I know how it is in my own State, but I might be mistaken as to how it is in this State.

Unless there is some other short statement that is *just* now on your mind, or unless some member of ~~our~~ ^{the} Committee has some question he desires to ask at this time, rather than later on, we will take a recess for lunch.

Mr. Allison: I have a statement concerning the labor and incorporation problem that I think-- I would like to say it anyway.

Mr. Johnson: That will take you a little while. Will you be back and say it after lunch?

Mr. Allison: If you would like to have it.

Mr. Johnson: Well, come back at half past one. We will take a recess now until that time.

(Whereupon, at 12:15 o'clock p.m., the Committee recessed.)

A F T E R R E C E S S .

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11/10/17

The Committee reassembled at 1:30 o'clock p.m., pursuant to recess.

STATEMENT OF REVEREND ALLISON (cont'd).

Mr. Johnson: Brother Allison, you said just before we took a recess for lunch that you had an additional statement to make. Please go ahead in your own way.

Mr. Allison: This statement is one that has to do with the strained relationships that are found to exist here between the laboring men and their employers. I have been for more than a year trying to come to some sort of a conclusion along these lines, and in my investigations I have found this one thing, that somehow, some way, this must be eliminated before there ever will be a solution that will have anything of permanency attached to it.

There exists today absolute lack of trust between these two bodies. The laboring men mistrust their employers; the employers mistrust their employes. Because of that, corporations have detective agencies, men whom they put amongst their employes, work right by their side, to get all of their secrets. They belong to the unions and they get the secrets, and the inside of the workmen's plans, and the corporation outguesses them and beats them to a certain point. Now it doesn't make any difference

how many strikes they have; it doesn't make any difference how many contracts they sign; as long as the spirit of mistrust exists, no contract is worth the paper that is written upon. I think that is powerfully illustrated by the Kaiser making treaties when he had designing motives, and when it came to a crisis that sacred document was no more than a scrap of paper.

Now there are two things that cause that mistrust. I think there is a little bit of blame that can be put upon both sides. However, it may be that I am a little bit prejudiced in this view, because of my former association and affiliations, and because I have no practical knowledge of the corporation man's troubles. The employer does not take the requisite amount of interest in his employe. My contention is that no man can be a good worker unless he is first of all a good citizen. There ought to be some definite activity by the employer to see that his men are properly housed; that their funds that they receive are adequate to give their families a living such as is on a par with what a man's life demands. He ought to know something about his recreational facilities. I think Henry Ford has an ideal plan amongst his men. I understand that he has in his employ a psychologist. He also has in his employ a social service worker. If a man isn't giving efficient service in his plant, that man and his family is visited. Everything is looked into; how much money they waste. They go into the whole thing to see if there is a woman at home that is nagging at the life of the man; they go into the

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while thing to study it out, to see why this man isn't delivering the goods.

Now the lack of the corporations to take the proper sort of interest in their men, that is one thing that creates mistrust; and then the fact that instead of meeting a labor issue squarely, they will flatly refuse to deal with it, and possibly do as they did here, undertake to supplant the men with other labor.

So much for that side of it.

Then here on the laboring men's side of it, so often laboring men are misrepresented. The average laboring man that I know anywhere in the country is the squarest sort of a man on the whole that you meet anywhere. They are open; they are frank; they are ready to do what is right, but I know from my own personal experience that it often occurs that laboring men are misrepresented. Some man who is rantankerous, an agitator, and may be he has gotten in through his influence some way, by some manipulation in his union, and he has gotten put to the head. I remember one concrete case in my own experience where a fellow who was at the head of one of the grievance committees of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, came very nearly wrecking all of our plans on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, when I was employed at Milwaukee. He was drunk; he was an agitator; he was unreasonable; he didn't represent us at all, and we finally had to throw him out of there. I have talked to laboring men and they have told me-- and labor leaders have told me--

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not all labor leaders are that way, but often that is the thing that leads corporations to mistrust the laboring men. I have had corporations tell me of the representatives of laboring men that have come to them and offered to sell out for so much money. They would settle a strike. I have had men, and men whom I believed, that have told a thing like that.

Now there is the problem. The solution to it is that the laboring men ought to wear themselves away from the rantankerous fellow.

Mr. Cooper: Now right there, let me ask you this question: You say-- what I believe everybody will admit who is familiar with the facts-- that the average laboring man is well-disposed, good hearted, a good citizen and wants to do what is right, and so forth.

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: And he knows that the success of the employer in giving him employment is his success?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: He can't pay wages unless the business is successful. Now then, when a bad man gets at the head of a labor organization-- or bad men, a number of them-- get control of it, the rank and file, not liking that kind of leadership when they know it, and repudiating it when they do know it; if, when these bad leaders make ~~these~~ these unreasonable demands, the employers, instead of absolutely refusing to have anything to do with the body of the men

themselves, would meet them and bring up these leaders before the body of the workmen and say "Here, this is what this man is doing. Here is the evidence and this shows what kind of a man has gotten at the head of your organization. Now we want to treat you well; we want to treat you kindly, because our success means our ability to pay you good wages and to protect you and your family." Wouldn't that be the way to do it, to meet and consider the thing in a kindly way, rather than to arbitrarily condemn all the laboring men in the country because a few leaders go wrong?

Mr. Allison: I am sure that is correct.

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Mr. Foster: Did you read the testimony that was given here before this Committee by some of the employers of labor in this city, that a great deal of this trouble was caused-- the riot was caused-- by laboring men, those who were connected with these unions, and so on?

Mr. Allison: No, I didn't hear that testimony.

Mr. Foster: Well, do you mind saying what you think of that sort of a statement that was made here by some of these men?

Mr. Allison: Well, I can say this: In my opinion I have given you in these other statements that I have made the actual cause of this trouble that we had here. There was a little race prejudice that entered into it, and there was a strained industrial situation here, and any man who knows the facts knows that is so, but I think it is unfair to make it simply a race matter. I think it is unfair to

undertake to make it simply an industrial problem. It is just the inevitable conclusion of a reign of all manner of corruptness, a corruptness that had worked its way in among from the least to the highest of the whole thing.

Mr. Cooper: Now I think that you have finally reached the crux of this whole tremendous problem. It confronts not only East St. Louis but it confronts, as has frequently been said here by witnesses, the whole industrial world. Now there are many very humane employers?

Mr. Allison: There are.

Mr. Cooper: There are many managers of great corporations that are kindly disposed, high minded men; not only of great ability, of brain, but of great heart, model citizens. On the other hand, it is true, and it might as well be admitted, there are many-- not many, but there are some-- who are grafting, cruel, avaricious, money-mad managers.

Mr. Allison: That is true.

Mr. Cooper: Great men, so-called. You have said that some of them appear to have very little conception of ethics in the higher sense. That is true, isn't it?

Mr. Allison: That is so.

Mr. Cooper: To sum it all up, avarice has no conscience, has it?

Mr. Allison: None whatever.

Mr. Cooper: Whether the employe be white or black, that kind of a man who is money-mad will abuse the employe if necessary to get more money. He will sometimes do it,

won't he?

Mr. Allison: He will always do it. He will serve his own selfish ends.

Mr. Cooper: Exactly. Now I have had employers tell me-- in the first place I will say this: A few years ago there was a general attack upon/railroad management in this country: You remember that?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, I heard one of the very ablest railroad men in this country say that the great prejudice against railroad management and railroad managers, the general condemnation that they all had to endure, was attributable in large part to a very few of those managers, in number, who had done gross wrongs. That is true, don't you think?

Mr. Allison: I am sure that is the case many times.

Mr. Cooper: Good managers suffer because of what the other man does?

Mr. Allison: Most assuredly.

Mr. Cooper: And so a humane employer, arousing the antagonism of labor men-- I would say an inhumane employer; a grasping, avaricious man, money-mad, arousing the antagonism of employes, injures to that extent, doesn't he, the business of the good employer?

Mr. Allison: Always.

Mr. Cooper: And this sort of treatment of working men arouses, does it not, what you can call a sort of a sullen hostility?

Mr. Allison: Oh, it does.

Mr. Cooper: A sullen, morose feeling of resentment?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: And one of the things that is arousing that feeling-- we might as well admit that it is here-- is the ignoring by grasping, cruel, avaricious-- and, as the Chairman said-- sometimes "money-rad" employers, of the just demands and of the helplessness of employees?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: So then, taking those two premises, the conclusion is that public opinion ought to be enlightened as to the facts of the situation on both sides, and about all the men interested?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: And enabled, as it would and will, if afforded the opportunity, to force a humanizing of industry?

Mr. Allison: That is the solution of it.

Mr. Cooper: That is absolutely the solution of it.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And when in a community a man occupies a prominent place, say; he has money; he is well clad; those facts alone are ought not alone to give him the reputation of a leading citizen-- the mere money?

Mr. Allison: Never.

Mr. Cooper: The methods pursued in getting the fortune ought to be inquired into before the public honors a man, ought they not?

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Mr. Allison: I think so.

Mr. Cooper: Now during your experience as a workman on the railroads-- and I want to say that your career has been a most interesting one. The whole committee has been greatly impressed by it. Was it your belief that the great majority of your fellow employes, and of employes generally, want to do what is the right thing, and have the right thing done by them?

Mr. Allison: Why, there is no hesitancy at all in saying that the general run of the men were anxious to do what was right, and they were simply looking for the thing that was right towards them.

Mr. Cooper: You said a little while ago that when these crooked leaders got into control of their organizations, when they found it out they deposed them?

Mr. Allison: Yes, they generally do that. Sometimes it is hard to do.

Mr. Cooper: Now, with thousands of working men and workingwomen, the great problem is one of simple maintenance, the ability to live, isn't it?

Mr. Allison: That is it. I think the majority of people are satisfied with an existence.

Mr. Cooper: And they struggle to be able to exist, many of them?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Unemployment is an important factor, isn't it?

Mr. Allison: It certainly is.

Mr. Cooper: Isn't unemployment, as shown by the statistics of the United States Government, the average through the year, of those engaged in industries of the country, about as important a factor to them as the height of the scale of wages?

Mr. Allison: It is the thing that affects the height of the scale of wages.

Mr. Cooper: Now I remember to have read that in some of the big industrial plants, in Chicago, men working in those plants got good wages when they worked, but that the United States Government figures show that they earned less than seven dollars a week. Do you know about that?

Mr. Allison: I know of cases where something similar to that is true.

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Mr. Cooper: So you get right down to this proposition, don't you, that the industrial condition has developed here under the tremendous competitive conditions so that good-hearted, industrious people can barely make money enough, often, no matter how hard and honestly they toil, to just subsist?

Mr. Allison: Yes; and that is often reduced to the difficult mathematical problem of knowing how to make one dollar do the work of two.

Mr. Cooper: Take such conditions as the evidence reveals exist in at least one plant in this city; colored men, unorganized, beginning work at seven o'clock in the morning and working till seven o'clock at night, and another gang going on in the same plant at seven o'clock at night

and working till seven o'clock in the morning-- in other words, two twelve-hour shifts-- in dust, where they grind the cottonseed, clouds of it filling the air to the distance of half a mile from the plant, night and day, 365 days in the year, and some of those people working 12 hours a day and seven days in the week; so bad the conditions that unorganized negro labor struck because they couldn't endure the dust, and heat, and the hours for them and their families. Their families' houses were close to the plant in that cloud of dust, day and night. Their demands were met not in a conciliatory spirit at all, apparently, as the testimony shows, but they were met by putting into their place other poor negro laborers who, rather than starve and go to the poorhouse, would accept those conditions and go to work. What do you think of a condition like that?

Mr. Allison: Well, there isn't-- there isn't only one thing to think about it, it is abominable. It is vicious, and there ought to be some sort of legislation that would be drastic enough to curb the avaricious employer and protect unorganized people like that.

Mr. Cooper: Under the Constitution of the United States those negro laborers are citizens?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Do you think that any citizen of the United States, white or black, ought to be forced, if he is going to live, to work twelve hours a day under

such conditions?

Mr. Allison: Well, here is all there is about it: He will not be a good citizen if he is compelled to do it. It doesn't make any difference what color he is; he can't be.

Mr. Cooper: Well, when it gets so bad that a colored laborer, unorganized, strives to get out from it, conditions are practically intolerable for anybody in the United States, aren't they?

Mr. Allison: Oh; I am sure of that.

Mr. Cooper: Yet they have them right here in this town, day in and day out, night in and night out.

There was it, Mr. Allison, that you saw those children of the drunken parents.

Mr. Allison: That was on Gaty Avenue, near 13th Street. It is at the side of the East St. Louis Laundry, in the rear.

Mr. Cooper: How long ago was that?

Mr. Allison: That is two years ago. The cases of destitution that I have seen here, I can take up a great deal of your time telling you about them, because we get any amount of appeals. A lot of them are of good people who have too much pride to make known their needs, and they are reduced to drastic conditions. Well, the neighbors get hold of it and may be they let us know. I remember one family last winter in which we buried three members of that family

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Mr. Cooper: Were they white?

Mr. Allison: White. They came here from some place in Tennessee. They came here to work, and they were stricken, and they wouldn't beg and would not let it be known, and they were in terrible condition. Two of them died of double pneumonia, pleural pneumonia, and another one died of diphtheria. It was one of the most tragic things that you could imagine.

Mr. Cooper: What was the sort of house that they lived in?

Mr. Allison: Oh, the house wasn't-- it wasn't a good house at all.

Mr. Cooper: One of these sort of semi shacks?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: How long had this white family been here?

Mr. Allison: Only a few months.

Mr. Cooper: Was the head of the family employed?

Mr. Allison: They were a family of children, three or four brothers, and I think there were seven in the family-- four ~~knights~~ brothers and three sisters, may be. The mother and father had died of tuberculosis. These children came in here. The boys were possibly thirty years, thirty-three or thirty-five-- something like that, the oldest was, and the seven children in ages drifted on down till there was a little girl may be four or five years old.

Mr. Cooper: What did they have to eat, do you remember?

Mr. Allison: Oh, they had had very, very meagre fare. I don't know what they used to have: I know they were in absolute destitution when we discovered them.

Mr. Cooper: How high did potatoes go here a year ago, do you remember? They went to \$1.45 a peck in Washington at one time.

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't manage that side of it. I know my wife complained very much about it. They were very, very high. I don't know what they were worth.

Mr. Cooper: Were the prices of necessaries of life on an average high in this city?

Mr. Allison: They are.

Mr. Cooper: Within the last two or three years have you noticed any reduction or increase in the cost of living on the average?

Mr. Allison: Oh, it has increased. The cost of coal, too, has-- well, it has gone to the place where it is almost impossible for us to furnish charity coal.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know what anthracite has been at any time here ^{at} ~~in town~~? Or don't you have anthracite?

Mr. Allison: There are some few families that use it, but most all of it is soft coal used here.

Mr. Cooper: How much has the price of coal increased, or did it before they undertook to regulate the price?

Mr. Allison: I think we had a contract with our church where we could get coal for practically two dollars

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or two and a quarter a ton; and now we can't buy the coal anywhere for, I think, \$4.75^{a ton} is the cheapest we can buy it.

Mr. Cooper: Is that soft coal?

Mr. Allison: Soft coal.

Mr. Cooper: How near are the mines to you?

Mr. Allison: We are right in the heart of what you might say-- we are in the heart of the soft coal district.

Mr. Cooper: Why, I read the other day a statement-- and you probably saw it-- I cut it out and had it in my room at the hotel, I think-- in which a prominent official who knows all about the coal business, said that it only cost from 90 cents, I believe, to \$1.20 to get it out of the ground.

Mr. Allison: Well, I think I read that same statement. Didn't it go on to say that the full cost of coal laid down on the tracks here-- it didn't mention East St. Louis particularly, but the full cost, shipping and all, of coal laid down on the tracks was from \$1.67 to \$2.30 a ton?

Mr. Cooper: Yes. So if they charge \$4.75 here, somebody gets a profit of over-- about 200 per cent?

Mr. Allison: Well, I wouldn't call it making a profit. Somebody is holding the folks up.

Mr. Cooper: Why, with the price of eatables so high, and the price of coal, and with working men-- some of the employes here getting, because of the period of unemployment each year, less than \$500 a year, how is it possible

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for a man, no matter how industrious, to make both ends meet at that rate?

Mr. Allison: Well, I explained here yesterday that one class, a young men's class in my church, is undertaking-- they have drafted a plan whereby they will do-- they themselves will do \$600 worth of charity work, and the reason we drafted that and made it so large upon that one organization is because we know that there are folks, good folks, who don't squander their money otherwise, that the problem of getting necessities of life is going to be a serious problem this winter, where men have families and the children in school, and if they have clothes sufficient to attend church and Sunday-school and things like that, we are compelled to do something.

Mr. Cooper: White people?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; white people.

Mr. Cooper: It would certainly be true, then, of the colored laborer?

Mr. Allison: Most assuredly.

Mr. Cooper: And no matter how industrious they are, careful, the conditions are just about as precarious as they well could be, aren't they?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir, and especially these things are so with men who have reached beyond the age of maturity. I have had a terrible task in getting men places who are beyond a certain age, at any kind of labor here or in the city. I have had some men, good men, men of splendid character. They had simply been thoughtless enough in the

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earlier days of their lives that they hadn't learned a definite trade. They had just been workers, working here and working there, and now then that they have passed, say, forty or forty-five years, it is then an extremely difficult thing to get those men a job. No matter how good a character they are, you can hardly get one placed.

Mr. Cooper: Yes, Mr. Allison, you have made a suggestion there that is one of the most important you have made. You have said they hadn't learned a trade.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Tell now, there ~~is~~ used to be, before the great age of machinery, practically an opportunity for everybody to learn a trade. The shoemaker made all of his shoes, and so on, but shoes are now made in great factories.

Mr. Allison: Yes, operated by machinery.

Mr. Cooper: No man makes a whole shoe-- or very few-- never, practically-- as the Chairman suggests, never, in the United States, because the man making the individual shoe, or the individual shoe-maker, rather, making shoes by hand, can't compete. So what do you have? You have a man born of good parents, industrious law-abiding people. He is born poor. They haven't been able to accumulate anything by their industry. That man, the father of the boy, has worked at a machine, and if put into a factory he couldn't learn a trade.

Mr. Allison: That is true.

Mr. Cooper: And the boy is just as poor and just as helpless as his father.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And the daughter in that family, a well-disposed, good girl; she has to go out, and she is put into some place where she works. A great majority of the work is done by machines. The man can run the machine, and the boy can run the machine, but there isn't an earthly chance for them to learn a trade as their great-grandfathers knew the trade a hundred years ago, is there?

Mr. Allison: No.

Mr. Cooper: That introduces an entirely new and tremendously important element into this great problem, doesn't it?

Mr. Allison: It does.

Mr. Cooper: The helplessness of workers is perfectly apparent when they have worked for ten years or twelve years in a shoe factory and go out from the shoe factory. They haven't learned a thing except to run a machine, have they?

Mr. Allison: That's all.

Mr. Cooper: Well, if they are turned adrift, the outlook is rather hopeless, isn't it?

Mr. Allison: It is.

Mr. Cooper: At least if not hopeless, it is full of-- well, it looks hopeless.

Mr. Allison: It is hopeless.

Mr. Cooper: So we ought, instead of relying upon the theories which obtained under conditions of a hundred years ago, and books which exploit those theories, ~~red~~

applicable to conditions long since passed away, before electricity, before a thousand things today that we have-- we ought to look at the conditions now. Isn't that right?

Mr. Allison: That is the need, to face life as life really is.

Mr. Cooper: And not the ^{a man} minute/like you begins to look at them fearlessly, and talk about them candidly, intimate that he is a socialist or an anarchist or a dangerous citizen? Isn't that so?

Mr. Allison: That is so.

Mr. Cooper: No country or no community ever got very far that put its head into the fan, did it?

Mr. Allison: No, it cannot.

Mr. Cooper: And tries not to see things?

Mr. Allison: It can't do it.

Mr. Cooper: Do you believe in that old saying in the Good Book, "Know ye the truth, and the truth shall make you free"?

Mr. Allison: Absolutely.

Mr. Cooper: And an enlightened public opinion in this country, that has an opportunity to know what the facts are and enact legislation based on the facts, wouldn't do anything unjust to anybody, would it?

Mr. Allison: No.

Mr. Cooper: And the man that tries to dodge the facts or to conceal them, either isn't up to his duty in the premises, or he has an ulterior motive to serve by his secrecy. Isn't that so?

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Mr. Allison: That is always so.

Mr. Cooper: Do you think class feeling in this republic ought not to exist?

Mr. Allison: By no means. I think one of the greatest menaces to this situation that we have been discussing here is the fact that so often the men who undertake to control or lead the situation are men who have not had real actual experience. No man can be sympathetic with the worker who has not been a worker. And so often the men who are at the head of these things are men who know nothing but theory, and they are impractical.

Mr. Cooper: Some of them at the head of them-- and I think Mr. Foster knows about this-- had the business handed over to them by their father, practically, and put in control.

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And the young men know absolutely nothing at all about-- and hadn't been to a meeting of the stockholders in ten years. And the Doctor suggests, didn't know the directors personally. You of course know that coal case?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; that is a fundamental consideration of this thing.

Mr. Cooper: What do you think about that?

Mr. Allison: Well, you can't expect anything from a man like that. The only thing that he will think about is his own interest, for that is the only thing that he knows anything about; and he doesn't know what that is

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from an intelligent standpoint.

Mr. Cooper: That is a good expression: His highest interests he doesn't know himself.

Mr. Allison: That is true.

Mr. Cooper: The mere grabbing of money, riving it from helpless poverty, isn't in his highest interests, is it?

Mr. Allison: ~~It is~~ Absolutely no.

Mr. Cooper: Because if it goes on forever there may come a dangerous time. Isn't that so?

Mr. Allison: It will come: He will have to resort to force to protect his interests, and when a man does that he is back at the headwaters of all sorts of trouble.

Mr. Cooper: And, as Dr. Foster suggests, that is exactly what had to be resorted to in the case that we all have in mind. This young man knew nothing about the work; he didn't know-- he had been at the head of the thing for ten years and didn't know the names of the board of directors, and didn't know the directors themselves. He knew nothing about the hardships of the people in that plant. He knew nothing about it, and yet when they struck and presented demands that they thought were reasonable, they were arbitrarily denied, simply because the power was there. They couldn't own a home; they were compelled to live on the company's property in a house that belonged to the company, and the testimony was, as the Doctor says-- and he was on that committee-- that they wouldn't sell them

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a home even if they wanted to buy. What was that, in effect?

Mr. Allison: Slavery.

Mr. Cooper: White slavery?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: They were white people. I think that's all.

Mr. Raker: Doctor, so as to make the connection of what Mr. Alexander Flannigan is supposed to have said-- did say at the meeting on May 28th-- I wish you would state to the Committee what was Mr. Flannigan's advice to his clients when they would come to him in regard to a colored person moving into the community, or next to where they lived?

Mr. Allison: Mr. Nelson Schein, a former member of the police board, told me that he heard Alexander Flannigan, in the presence of other men, tell what his legal advice to one of his clients was concerning the client's complaint that a negro was going to move in next door to his place. Alexander Flannigan said: "I gave him three points. The first was that if the furniture wagon backed up to the gate and if the furniture couldn't be put into the house, the man couldn't live there. And in the next place, if the furniture did get into the house and the negro never got any farther than the porch, he wouldn't live there. In the first place, I told him that there was no law against mob violence; that I had never heard of anybody being convicted for such a thing."

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Mr. Raker: That was his solemn opinion to his client in regard to colored people moving into a house that they had presumably either leased or bought like anyone else?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; the colored man had either bought the property or rented it.

Mr. Raker: You haven't said anything to the Committee yet-- may be I haven't the right facts-- relative to there being a combination between certain colored-- prominent colored people-- so considered-- and certain men, white men in East St. Louis, relative to the handling of the city affairs. Was there anything of that kind?

Mr. Allison: Oh; that has existed, yes.

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Mr. Raker: What was the latest combination for the last election for Mayor?

Mr. Allison: Well now, my information comes through a negro by the name of P. C. Parker, who told me of his own relation to the present administration, and told me that Mr. Tarlton had given him forty dollars-- and he is the same man that Mr. Hollman's secretary, Mr. Maurice Ahearn, said they had to buy the negro and that they gave him fifty dollars. Mr. Parker told me-- I asked him for negro men who could give me information, men who had been leaders, and through whom the manipulation had been made. Mr. Parker gave me the names of a Mr. Green, who was an undertaker here; Dr. Fundy, who was a dentist, and another prominent negro here, Dr. Blalitt, and Gordon. He was an attorney: That is the last combination.

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Mr. Raker: But who were the white men connected with these, now?

Mr. Allison: Well, there has just been one man's name that has been mentioned. That was Mr. Tarlton. He is the white man. Mrs. Bundy told me this morning in this room that Locke Tarlton did pay the women two years ago in the other election, and she said he promised to pay her but still owed her; he hadn't paid her for her services in this last election.

Mr. Foster: Who managed the other side?

Mr. Allison: Which side?

Mr. Foster: Well, there were two tickets running here, weren't there?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Now, who managed the other side? They didn't just let these negroes go and not make any effort to secure them for their ticket, did they?

Mr. Allison: Well, I think this crowd outbid the other fellows. I don't know who was managing the negro end of the other crowd.

Mr. Foster: There must have been somebody, wasn't there, trying to do it?

Mr. Allison: I don't know. I think all forces were lined up in one direction.

Mr. Foster: Well, you had two tickets in the last municipal election?

Mr. Allison: Yes, but I hardly think there was anybody on the other ticket that had the ability to manage that end of the vote.

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Mr. Foster: They would have done it, though—probably did the best they could, do you think?

Mr. Allison: Well, they might have. I don't know whether they would or not. They didn't carry any of it, anyway.

Mr. Foster: They just beat them and got that vote? Is that what you mean to say?

Mr. Allison: That is what I mean: They got it, and they bid high for it.

Mr. Foster: You think what they did was to out-bid them?

Mr. Allison: Well, they possibly did that.

Mr. Foster: The other side was not so good that they wouldn't have done it if they had had the ability to do it?

Mr. Allison: Well, I think if it had stayed down to a reasonable figure, possibly there would have been a tussle about it. I think Mr. Tarlton was about right. He said if the other crowd didn't want to get into the game they had better stay out; that no "fiker" could get in and win it; that it took a fellow with money.

Mr. Baker: Well now, there must have been some other connections except Tarlton. Tarlton was working for the city officials and the drainage board, was he?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I don't know about that election when the President--

Mr. Baker: (Interposing) I'll get back to that later. I want to hold to the municipal election. Now

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Tarleton was to represent the whites?

Mr. Allison: No, he was the white man who got hold of the negro vote and controlled it; and he is the man that Mr. Vollman told me would take care of the negro situation, and I needn't worry about the negro situation.

Mr. Baker: Was there any other element involved in this combination except Tarleton and how he was to handle it with the negro people; any other association or organization of men?

Mr. Allison: Not that I know of. I think this, that all other combinations of men who could handle the negro situation were lined up with Mr. Tarleton. That is how I attribute to him his ability to swing the whole thing. I have always been interested to know if the negroes really got as much money as they said they paid them.

Mr. Baker: Well now, in addition to the negro vote thus obtained, by of course corruption, the use of money?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Undoubtedly promises of future advancement or future better conditions, or future hopes of reward-- what other element entered into and in connection with the colored people?

Mr. Allison: You mean to elect the Mayor?

Mr. Baker: They have got the "Blue Crane" and the "Monkey Cage" and the "Parrot Box" yet to deal with. Where did they line up?

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Mr. Allison: Well, those are things that have passed out of existence.

Mr. Baker: Well then, the present saloons and their hangers-on, with whom did they line up? With Tarlton?

Mr. Allison: Why, certainly. And all of them that didn't, have had their license taken away from them, I think. A number of them were put on the black list-- put on the black list as unfavorable. I think that happened before the election.

Mr. Baker: Well now, how did the double-cross-- was this when this double-cross was made with the negroes and the labor people?

Mr. Allison: No.

Mr. Baker: That is another election?

Mr. Allison: No, I don't think that was an election at all.

Mr. Baker: There were the laboring boys here on this last election?

Mr. Allison: I couldn't tell you just how. I think the laboring votes, though, lined up largely behind the present administration. Most all of us in the town were back of it. It went over by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. Baker: They got you all to going? That I mean by that is, with promises that you felt conditions would be better?

Mr. Allison: Certainly. And it was just a question of tying a rag around your eyes and walking to the

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polls and voting.

Mr. Baker: Put some got more than a rag tied around their eyes?

Mr. Allison: Yes; the colored voters got the worst of it.

Mr. Baker: Now back to the election in November, 1916, that was a presidential election?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And state officers. And was there any election at that particular time now in regard to the Levee District?

Mr. Allison: Yes; that was at the presidential election.

Mr. Baker: The levy district election was on as well?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Baker: Now at that election was it understood that the voters were brought in here-- negroes were brought in here for the election?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I heard some little charges of that, but not to amount to a great deal. I wish I knew a lot of specific things about that election. I would rejoice in telling all I know about it.

Mr. Baker: Well, was it understood that there was improper influences?

Mr. Allison: Charges were made that there were.

Mr. Baker: Now to what extent? That were the combinations generally understood? Just how were they arranged? Now we have got the presidential election on;

we have got the state election; we have got the congressional election; we have got also the election where they elected the levee board and the state's attorney too, didn't they?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Baker: So there is an opportunity now for great business?

Mr. Allison: Yes. Well, the combination in that election was that-- and that is the thing that Vollman referred to when he told Mr. Gillett and I that he had a gentleman's agreement with Mr. Schaumleffel. Now this regize here in town, this Canavan-Tarlton crowd, lined up behind Schaumleffel.

Mr. Baker: That is for the election in 1916, in November?

Mr. Allison: Yes, and that was where they had their gentleman's agreement. The Canavan and Tarlton machine got in behind Schaumleffel for State's Attorney, and then he repaid them by coming down and lining up his forces behind Mr. Vollman in the spring following.

Mr. Baker: Now there is another crowd still left out. There is the levee board and other officers. Where did they come in?

Mr. Allison: Well, the levee board, of course-- they were behind Schaumleffel, of course, because that is the Canavan and Tarlton machine. The levee board is part of it.

Mr. Baker: were there any combinations between this place and Brooklyn up here?

Mr. Allison: Oh, yes, the levee board has jurisdiction all up through there, and that is how they went up there and swung that whole negro vote. Practically the whole negro vote went for the democratic board, and Woodrow Wilson got about 80 votes out of the eight or nine hundred that there are up there.

Mr. Baker: Well now, just take that statement upon its face; they wouldn't be considered very shrewd, capable leaders in a political fight, would they? If not, why not?

Mr. Allison: Well, it isn't a question of shrewdness down here, you know. The thing had been going on so long that nothing could be too raw, too bold. That is why I made the statement to you yesterday, that these men down here have lost their conscience on things of that kind. Yes, these fellows here would consider that a very shrewd deal, no matter how flagrant, no matter how open it is, no matter how openly and apparently the thing points to their guilt. They would consider it very shrewd to put it across, because they fear neither God nor man.

Mr. Baker: Well, were there any other offices supposed to be mixed up in this combination?

Mr. Allison: Not that I know of. But I can say this: All the officers that would contribute to the manipulation of this machine, its operations in here, in its city affairs and county affairs-- every office that would contribute to the operation of that machine was

31 gotten in line. Now I am sure of that; and if the man didn't get in line he was defeated.

Mr. Raker: Well, it is a very high compliment to the candidate for Congress that he wasn't mixed up in it.

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know that Mr. Rodenburg was entangled in that.

Mr. Raker: I think that is a high compliment.

Mr. Allison: I think it is the officers that pertain purely to the city and the county affairs.

Mr. Raker: So they can use them?

Mr. Allison: Well, yes. There is no other motive that could be.

Mr. Foss: It doesn't relate to national affairs, in your judgment?

Mr. Allison: I don't think so, no. These fellows have no national aspirations. It is all local. Here is where the stuff that tickles their hands comes in. It don't come from higher up.

Mr. Johnson: They don't care who is President or Governor if they can manage the local situation?

Mr. Allison: No, they don't care. It doesn't make any difference to them. That was proven in the election by the attitude of Brooklyn out here towards the national election. No, these fellows are neither democrats nor republicans. They are neither one: Now I would be ashamed-- I wouldn't want to belong to a party that those fellows were affiliated with.

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Mr. Raker: Still, you have to at times, you know.

Mr. Allison: Yes, I know. They ought to be disowned.

Mr. Raker: The main king-pin when anything comes up--

Mr. Allison (Interposing:): I think they could be disowned.

Mr. Raker: It is pretty hard, you know.

Mr. Allison: Of course I have my political affiliations.

Mr. Raker: You don't want to be run out because somebody wants to be the king-pin, do you?

Mr. Allison: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: You aren't going to be?

Mr. Allison: No, sir; I am not.

Mr. Raker: I think that is as far as I care to ask.

Mr. Cooper: You said that these men were called-- or Tarlton said that a piker had no business to run here?

Mr. Allison: Yes, he told me that himself. That is, that a piker had no business to get into the game.

Mr. Cooper: Now a piker was a sort of an apprecious epithet; sort of a sneering epithet applied to the man who was a piker?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: It didn't mean anything more nor less, did it, than that a poor man needn't get in?

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Mr. Allison: If he didn't have lots of money there was no use of his getting in the game.

Mr. Cooper: In other words, a "piker" in Mr. Tarlton's opinion was a poor man?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: In other words, he sneered at a poor man when it came to trying to run for office here without the consent of his machine?

Mr. Allison: Oh yes. He wouldn't pay any attention to a man that didn't have money.

Mr. Cooper: The only trouble with the man he called a piker was the fact that he happened to be poor?

Mr. Allison: And may be honest.

Mr. Cooper: Well, yes. If a man happened to be both poor and honest--

Mr. Allison (Interposing:) No question about him being a piker then, in Mr. Tarlton's estimation (laughter).

Mr. Cooper: Well, if money is to buy political place, to buy law-makers, bye and bye there won't be much chance anywhere for a man that is poor and honest, will there?

Mr. Allison: No.

Mr. Cooper: Corrupt money and powerful financial interests and machines will own the poor man, body and soul, won't they?

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Mr. Allison: They will, if they succeed.

Mr. Cooper: How long has this Caravan-Tarlton

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machine been running things in this way here?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know. I think they had had hold of the situation pretty well since I came to town.

Mr. Baker: No chance of throwing a monkey wrench into the machinery, is there?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I think there is a monkey wrench in the machinery now.

Mr. Cooper: You said something this morning about Schaumleffel and somebody else swapping votes with the levee board. What did you mean?

Mr. Allison: Well, I meant this-- the whole thing is simply this, that Mr. Schaumleffel came down here-- or that the agreement was made between this Canadian-Barlton machine ^{on} and the Schaumleffel campaign that they would get together on this thing; they would put Schaumleffel across for State's Attorney; they would elect a democratic levee board, and then they knew that they had the city administration, and Schaumleffel had the county affairs, and they would turn each other loose, and they would have, as Mr. Hollman told me, their "gentleman's agreement."

Mr. Cooper: Now you said this morning that in your opinion the prosecuting officer of a county is, in some respects, the people's most valuable officer?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: If he is an honest, capable, fearless man; and he is the most dangerous if he is not.

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Mr. Allison: That naturally follows.

Mr. Cooper: Now then, is it your idea that a machine, a political machine that is corrupt, goes out in vigorous support of a prosecuting officer except they understand that the prosecuting officer will take care of them if they are caught in anything wrongful?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I am sure that agreement was definite.

Mr. Cooper: They don't support people, do they, except for a consideration?

Mr. Allison: Certainly not.

Mr. Cooper: And a machine like that, which has this man in the position of the people's attorney, if that machine or any particularly powerful man in the machine is charged with crime, he can rely upon the man whom they put in as prosecuting officer to protect him?

Mr. Allison: Always. And even a little fellow, if they know he supported them, they will ~~go to the~~ front for him and take care of him.

Mr. Cooper: And then if any honest man and poor man, a piker, as they call him, dares to attack this big crowd, the ^{corrupt} big machine, they rely upon the district attorney to punish the "piker", the honest, poor man who dares to attack them; don't they?

Mr. Allison: Yes. They say not let him get to the district attorney.

Mr. Cooper: But if they do, by force, take

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the punishment of that presumptuous piker, poor and honest, disgusted with the corruption in his own city-- if they do punish him themselves, some of the toughs and ruffians and strong-armed men and shoulder-hitters, thugs-- always cowards, in the employment of such crowds as that-- if they do attack this piker, beat him up or kill him, and are charged with crime, they rely upon a rather lenient prosecution not to overdo the thing, don't they, when they come to punishing him?

Mr. Allison: Always.

Mr. Cooper: And can there be anything, as Judge Raker brought out this morning-- anything more dangerous than to have a prosecuting authority of such a character that innocence daring to attack corruption is likely to be punished unfairly?

Mr. Allison: It is the most dangerous thing there is.

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Mr. Cooper: Well, that is exactly the condition here, isn't it?

Mr. Allison: That is the condition, unquestionably so.

Mr. Johnson: Your opinion, then, based upon the knowledge and observation you have had had, is that there exists here a political conspiracy that Mr. Cooper has just described?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; I am satisfied that it is here.

Mr. Johnson: You said something about political association between Mr. Tarlton and Dr. Fundy's wife. What was it you said about that?

Mr. Allison: Why, Mrs. Fundy said that she knew that Mr. Tarlton had paid the negro women in the campaign-- in the previous campaign.

Mr. Johnson: For their votes?

Mr. Allison: For their votes; that was the understanding, and that she had worked for him this time and that he promised to pay her for working for him, but up to date he hadn't done it.

Mr. Johnson: Had she done political organizing?

Mr. Allison: I suppose something like that. She had worked for him among the colored women. You know it would be one of the most wholesome things in the world if these colored folks who have been so ridiculously treated would come up and tell what they know about those things. There would be a wholesome effect come from it.

Mr. Johnson: You think there is what might be termed a "prospective" hope that they may do so?

Mr. Allison: Well, if I was a colored man I certainly would tell all I knew.

Mr. Johnson: Well, I believe that, but what do you think about the prospect of getting local colored people here to tell what they know? Are they afraid to do it, in your opinion?

Mr. Allison: Yes; they are afraid to do it.

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Mr. Johnson: Well, don't you think they can free themselves of this situation by coming along and telling it now, better than they can by withholding it?

Mr. Allison: Most assuredly if they withhold it they will always live under that fear.

Mr. Johnson: And this thing will continue?

Mr. Allison: It will continue and they will live under that fear. If they would come and tell the truth about these things, tell it right out, and let the axe fall where it ought to fall-- the trouble with police boards and everything else, and every other sort of enforcement of law here is wrapped up in these gentlemen back behind. Mr. Tarlton has told me to my face, openly and frankly, that he believed in an open town: He believes in these things. He believes in an open town.

Mr. Johnson: Your opinion then is that if this thing can't be broken up by legal punishment, that it can be done so by the application of publicity?

Mr. Allison: Yes, the application of publicity would be a wholesome thing here now.

Mr. Johnson: And you regard that-- the administration of that as more likely than you do the ^{infliction} ~~application~~ of the legal punishment for a lot of irregularities going on around here?

Mr. Allison: Well now, these convictions in these riot cases now, where just the individual participants in the riot are being convicted, that will have a wholesome effect, in that people who are thus inclined, immediately

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after these convictions, they are going to hesitate, they are going to let the other fellow assault a negro. We will get a wholesome effect from that, but we would get a great deal more of result out of this if these gentlemen back behind the scenes could be brought into the light and receive the just punishment that they deserve.

Mr. Cooper: Well, can they be brought out into the light and punished without prosecuting the officer who will do his duty without regard to consequences?

Mr. Allison: I think, as the Attorney General is in here now, I think that the Attorney General could do it, and would be glad to do it. You have got to get the information, and I have talked to some of the colored people and I have told them that the only man who can furnish information that is vital to the thing is the man who knows, and they know it, and several of them have told me that they do know it, but they hesitate about coming out with the thing.

Mr. Cooper: Well, isn't it possible that a corrupt-- and I am not saying that this is the case here now-- but if there were a corrupt State's Attorney here, he could very much embarrass the office of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, couldn't he, in prosecuting cases?

Mr. Allison: Well, yes, of course he could.

Mr. Sawyer: I ~~just~~ just want to drop this in here. You say that this could all come out if the colored people would come up and tell all they know?

Mr. Allison: That is my opinion about it.

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Mr. Baker: And they will be in better shape; their conscience would be better-- you mean that too?

Mr. Allison: Yes, I do.

Mr. Baker: Well, have you thought about the poor unfortunate fellow, colored fellow, with no place to go, no one to give him protection, and what in the name of God is that poor wretch is going to do?

Mr. Allison: I have thought of that.

Mr. Baker: When a good, strong, virile man takes the witness stand before this Committee-- as has been done since we have been here-- who has a great organization behind him-- appealed to the Committee not to give his opinion for the effect it would have on his personal safety, and so forth, what do you think about that? Now just think about the white man as compared to the negro. I tell you there are two sides to this proposition, aren't there?

Mr. Allison: There are two sides to it. I don't mean to say that the colored people are the only folks who know this corruption. White men know it too. I am satisfied of that.

Mr. Baker: Why don't they come forward and give the Attorney-General the information and the committee information that will help clear up this matter, and give the Attorney-General more of an opportunity to get these real, high-up fellows that need to be over at Belleville on trial and then eventually go down to the little home where you keep those fellows?

Mr. Allison: I don't know, unless-- I said this

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one time at a meeting of the committee of 100 that the trouble with East St. Louis ^{was} that there were so many different rings and so many wheels within wheels; that everybody had something in the other fellow, and they were all afraid to speak.

Mr. Cooper: Don't you think that the people-- or too many of them, at least-- residents of East St. Louis, don't appreciate the fact that the State's Attorney is their lawyer, in one sense of the word, when it comes to the prosecution of criminal cases? He is their lawyer; he represents the people as against those who break the law. Then when it comes to civil cases in which the county is interested in the collection of any moneys which might be due the county-- defaulters, and so forth-- he is their lawyer?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir, certainly.

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Mr. Cooper: And in the matter of assessments too, very frequently, he is their lawyer. It isn't an office of minor importance; it is the people selecting a man to represent them in civil and criminal litigation, in which their own interests are involved, because the preservation-- I would say the administration of the law is their interest, and they don't seem to understand, do they, lots of them?

Mr. Allison: I don't think they do at all.

Mr. Cooper: Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing-- isn't it a wonderful thing to think of what East St. Louis would be without these corrupt rings; without these vicious

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characters, if you can have an honest assessment and collection of taxes; an honest disbursement of the public funds for legitimate public purposes; cleaning up the city and making it what it ought to be, an up-to-date municipality? Don't you think that these people that are in these rings and that profit by them, themselves would rejoice if that condition could be brought about?

Mr. Allison: I am sure they would.

Mr. Cooper: They are doing themselves and their wives and children a great injury in one sense of the word, aren't they, some of them?

Mr. Allison: They are. They are injuring the whole city. East St. Louis has wonderful possibilities.

Mr. Foster: Let me ask you right along that line, your judgment is that the majority of the people of East St. Louis are good people?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; I am convinced of that.

Mr. Foster: And, as Judge Cooper said, that if the good people of this city would stand together, that the possibilities of East St. Louis are great?

Mr. Allison: They are.

Mr. Foster: It could be made a wonderful city?

Mr. Allison: It can be.

Mr. Foster: You have got all the elements here to make it a wonderful city?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: It needs only for the good people of East St. Louis to assert themselves?

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Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Now what interest have these good people, the merchants and others, taken in these elections, or have they permitted them to be managed by a class who expect to profit by the elections?

Mr. Allison: They don't take a great deal of interest.

Mr. Foster: They don't take much interest either in the primary or the general elections?

Mr. Allison: The primary election in East St. Louis is a very, very tame affair.

Mr. Foster: Not much vote?

Mr. Allison: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: About fifty per cent probably?

Mr. Allison: No, it doesn't elicit as much expression of citizenship as a school election many times.

Mr. Foster: Don't you think that if these people would go out and take an interest in elections, take a day off, declare a holiday, stay around the polls and see what is going on, it would be a paying investment?

Mr. Allison: It would.

Mr. Foster: More than they could make by keeping their stores open one day?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Foster: You have spoken about the colored people coming before this Committee and telling certain things that were done here. Would that bring about a reform of these negroes that are corrupt and that take

this money in elections?

36 Mr. Allison: I am sure that that such a thing as that would have a wholesome effect in that direction/.

Mr. Foster: You know there is a law in the State of Illinois against buying votes?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir, I know that.

Mr. Foster: But of course there can be no buying unless there is selling.

Mr. Allison: Certainly not. I know the law also acts against the one who sells.

Mr. Foster: I don't remember whether that is the case or not. I am inclined to think it does-- yes, it is against the one who sells, and not against the one who buys. I think that is the way it is, if I remember right.

Mr. Baker: No law against the buyer of votes?

Mr. Foster: Well, if you have it against the buyer and the seller both, you never could convict anybody. There is a law against selling, as I remember it, and I don't remember if it is both or not. I couldn't be sure. I will find out about that.

Now according to your statement there is a large purchasable vote in the city of East St. Louis?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; there has been.

Mr. Foster: Has there been an effort made to break up that situation?

Mr. Allison: No effort at all.

Mr. Foster: So that there is probably a good many white people and a large number of colored people here,

and they go out under the guise of paying for their time; they get them to be for them; they corrupt them and control the election in that way?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: So that Mrs. Bundy, who claims here that she was not paid for her work, means very likely that this woman sold her influence for what she could get out of it?

Mr. Allison: Well, yes. I think this, though, that that thing has been cultivated by these politicians among these folks, and the colored people have virtually looked upon that as the only means of their getting anything out of the election.

Mr. Foster: That they see, as you say, that that is all they get out of the election, the amount of money that is paid to them for their work on election day?

Mr. Allison: I think that is so.

Mr. Foster: And that is one great evil that if it could be broken up would be a blessing to East St. Louis, or any other community?

Mr. Allison: Yes, or any other community.

Mr. Foster: I fully agree with you on that. You know a Member of Congress resigned, who went down to Washington in an airplane-- published throughout the United States by the Associated Press, and he went back home, and before Congress assembled he was indicted and brought before the Judge, and was to be arraigned before the Judge on the Tuesday following the convening of Congress, for

sentence, and resigned his office and never did get back any more, except the one time, when he went in an airship. It is a bad thing for anybody, it don't make any difference who it is?

Mr. Allison: Yes, that is true.

Mr. Foster: I think that is right. Now let me ask you this: You said some time today-- I don't remember whether this morning or this afternoon-- that you were uneasy about the colored vote, and that you had a talk-- you were sent for by Mr. Tarlton--

Mr. Allison (Interposing:): By Mr. Hollman.

Mr. Foster: By Mr. Hollman, and that he told you that was all right. That made you feel uneasy at that time?

Mr. Allison: Well, I have a colored janitor out at my church. He was talking to me about voting for the other crowd, and I said to him "Well, how are the folks in general talking about that?" "Why", he said "they are all going to be for him." So I just took his word for it, and then I did feel the thing out a little bit and found out it was so.

Mr. Foster: May be that was a little early in the campaign.

Mr. Allison: No-- well, of course--

Mr. Foster (Interposing:): Before the material argument had arrived?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Let me ask you this question: Have

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you been sued lately?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; there was a suit brought against me here.

Mr. Foster: What, in your judgment, was that brought for?

Mr. Allison: Well, I don't know. I heard that it was being circulated around town that they were going to give it to the papers and publish it abroad, and two or three men came and told me all about it, and Jerry Sullivan met me in the rotunda of the Murphy Building one day and greeted me by saying he heard my name called over in court and wanted to know what I was being sued about.

Mr. Foster: Have you been summonsed?

Mr. Allison: No, sir; they never did get service on me.

Mr. Foster: That is that for; an alleged debt?

Mr. Allison: Yes, it was in reference to a school debt. I worked my way through Spring College-- took my wife and two children and worked my way through college. I would like to explain that.

Mr. Foster: That is what I asked you for. Explain it in your own way, because I thought possibly there was an effort being made to break down your evidence here.

Mr. Allison: Well, I am sure that it was going to be used for that purpose, to discredit me in the eyes of this community. I worked my way through college with a wife and two children. It was a Baptist institution, and in our Baptist institution ministerial students are never

charged tuition. Baptist schools, further, have a fund known as the "Ministerial Educational Fund", money that is contributed by the churches to support worthy ministerial students in their effort to work their way through school. The first year I was in college--

Mr. Foster (Interposing:) That was at Ewing College, Illinois?

Mr. Allison: Ewing college, yes. The first year I was at college I paid my tuition, because during the hard times of 1893 the ministerial students who were then in school came forward and volunteered to pay their tuition, and they created sort of a precedent, and ever after that the ministerial students had to pay tuition. So the first year I was in college I paid tuition. The second year I went back I started in to school, and I realized that I wasn't going to be able to make it, and I went to Dr. Leavitt, president of the college, and told him I was going to leave; that I was going to get a job in the train service, working on the railroad. He said "You are not going to do anything of the kind." He had quite a conversation with me, and told me he thought possibly there might be a larger place for me in the service, and he explained to me this condition that existed; that ministerial students were not compelled to pay tuition. I said "Well, I don't want to be fired." He said "Well, you do this. It is the plan of our educational schools to allow ministerial students to go on through college, and when they finish, and after they get out of school, if they are able

to refund that money, it is understood they will do it."

So I went on and made these little, what you might call "memorandum" notes of the tuition from time to time. That continued on until I was almost through school, and I was in school for over three years. I took my degree by doing some work in absentia, that could be done that way, after I had left school-- some history: Dr. Leavitt got so that he sent me out to fill some of his appointments. He called me into his office one day-- I am going to be frank and tell this-- it gets close to my heart to tell it.

Mr. Foster: That is the reason I asked, Mr. Allison, because I got the understanding that was brought down here to break down your influence for good. That is the reason why I wanted you to explain it to the Committee.

Mr. Allison: So he called me into his office. I was going out to fill an appointment of his, and he asked me if that was the best coat I had. I told him it was. It was threadbare around the sleeves, and he suggested that a fellow shouldn't go out that way. He smiled about it, and then he said to me "There is money in the ministerial fund." That was the first I knew of the existence of the ministerial fund. I drew some money out of it at his suggestion. He said it was to be locked upon the same as tuition, and I purchased myself a coat and went and filled his engagement.

Well, in the three years and a half I was in school, all my tuition and the money I had gotten from the ministerial educational fund amounted to \$300. ~~Then I left~~

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When I left school I sat down and made a note of all of that. I piled that all together, these little memorandum notes, and made one note of the \$300. It was understood that it was not to draw interest. It was understood that that note was to be repaid when I had gotten out of school and gotten to the place that I could repay it. I made the note, and in making the note the young fellow who was registrar of the college-- we were good friends together, and it was made on a "cut-throat" note form, and the interest proposition was not scratched out.

Mr. Cooper: Was it a blank note?

Mr. Allison: It was a blank note form that it was made on. But he made it out and I signed it, and I never noticed on it ~~was~~ that the interest was not scratched out. I wasn't concerned about that thing, and a prominent man in Southern Illinois signed the note with me. I had a letter from Dr. Leavitt commending me for such action and saying that I never would be pressed about it, and all that.

The years went on and there came a man to be the president of Spring College, and like the Bible term, there came a man on the scene "that knew not Joseph", and he and I got into a difficulty over a matter of school discipline and executive affairs. I was a member of the board of trustees at that time, and to retaliate on me he found this note and undertook to force the collection of it. I took the old original notes, and the letter from Dr. J. A. Leavitt, president of the College, and went to Spring, be-

fore the board of trustees, laid the whole matter before them, and the trustees told the gentleman to keep his hands off; that that note would never be forced upon me. So I had with me, as I say, the original notes and the letter from Dr. Leavitt. I had them in my grip. I left my grip in the President's office during the time that I was in Ewing. I went back to Marion, where I had charge of a church, and in a few days I got word that there had been a discrepancy found; that \$140 and some odd of that money was found to have been borrowed from the Carnegie Library fund, a fund that the college had, that would draw interest. Well, I immediately-- I looked in this little grip that I carried along, and I didn't have my original notes, and I didn't have my letter. Somebody had taken them out of my grip at Ewing. There was no other conclusion to draw.

Well, I went back up to Ewing and I insisted that they show me where I had ever borrowed Carnegie Library fund money. Of course they couldn't show it, and it resulted in a wrangle, and it resulted in this fellow being so foolhardy as to make a notation on the face of this note I had made that one hundred and some odd dollars was Carnegie fund money. I told him that he had made the note null and void; that the notation was false; that it wasn't true to the facts. I got mad about it, but time rolled on and he just let it settle at that, and the board of trustees then-- after that notation was made I offered to make a new note, and a

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new note was made. I was to pay it \$25 a year, and I made out the new note according to the instructions and the official action of the board of trustees. I turned that note over to the registrar of the college and went on home.

The treasurer of the college had been in with this president, who was angry at me, and he refused to accept the note, and kept the note and didn't mail me the old note, and I refused to pay the \$25 a year until I had one or the other of those notes. They had two notes of \$300, and I was insisting upon settlement. We got into quite a wrangle, and just wrangled and wrangled, and I wouldn't pay without some sort of a settlement of the thing.

Now there came another man on the scene who got intensely angry at this prominent man I am telling about, and he brought suit on the note-- that is, he intended to bring suit. I wrote him all the facts in the case; told him all about it; told him what I could do; that I didn't want any litigation, and I would take care of it. I told him I would go to the bank and borrow the money and pay the note. I offered to do that, but I wanted a settlement. I wasn't going to settle one note for \$300 and have another note for \$300 staring me in the face. I asked him for settlement of account to date. He wouldn't give it to me, and I wouldn't settle without it.

Now then, Mr. Arthur Summers, president of the college, came up here to East St. Louis and made it his

special business to go and call on Mayor Mollman. He and Mayor Mollman had this conference on an afternoon that ~~just~~ ^{this} recently happened, and then he went and told Mr. Coley-- I was out of town on a lecture trip, a Chataugus Lecture Trip-- and Mr. Summers told Mr. Coley that if he brought suit on the case he would let him know who the attorney on the other side was. So we never knew anything ~~at all~~ more about it, except I knew he went to this conference, and then Mr. Coley one day heard that the suit had been read in the City Court here, and that Mr. Tom Webb was the attorney for the plaintiffs. Well, I got the bill and looked at it, and there the suit had been brought in the name of the trustees of Ewing College, men who knew all about the circumstances; men who were my friends. I took it up with them, and they said they had never authorized it.

Mr. Foster: They had never authorized the suit?

Mr. Allison: Never authorized the suit to be brought at all, and they wouldn't stand for any such thing as that, and so we have, between myself and the board of trustees, we have settled the thing, but the suit is still pending. Now that is the whole truth on the whole thing.

Mr. Foster: And you have the idea that that was to show you hadn't paid what you owed, so as to break down your influence here?

Mr. Allison: I think so. Mr. Frank Geary over here, the saloon-keeper, came to me one day and told me

that he had heard it commonly talked around by folks that they were going to air the thing on me and make it the public. He said the way they talked about it he thought they had something awful on me. I said "Well, if that's all they have got on me, I'll thank my stars. They either haven't been good-lookers, or I have been good; one of the two."

Mr. Foster: Well, that is the reason I asked you, Mr. Allison. It wasn't with the idea of censuring you or doing anything of the kind.

Mr. Allison: Well, that is the whole truth on it, now, gentlemen.

Mr. Foster: That is the reason I asked you the question.

Mr. Allison: Well, I appreciate it. I appreciate the motive of it.

Mr. Cooper: Do you have any idea who abstracted those original memorandum notes and the other documents from that grip?

Mr. Allison: Why, I have an idea who it was, yes, but I don't know who did it. There was only one man who could have had a motive to do it.

Mr. Cooper: You never have seen them since?

Mr. Allison: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: If you had ^{had} a good business man you could have gotten rid of that note right here in town, couldn't you?

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Mr. Allison: Well, I might have (laughter).

Mr. Cooper: There are machines here looking for just such trouble as that, aren't there?

Mr. Allison: Yes; I think may be if I had gone to the Kangaroo Court, and got one of those juries, and attorneys, and so forth, I would have gotten out of it quite easily.

Mr. Johnson: Where is the "Kangaroo Court" (laughter)?

41 Mr. Allison: It used to be held down here at French Village, in Cahokia down here; and I understand now-- well, I have heard of Justice Clark's Court referred to as a "Kangaroo Court".

Mr. Johnson: What did they do at the Kangaroo Court? How did it get its name?

Mr. Allison: Well, it is one in which Mr. Alexander Flannigan manipulates his kind of procedures in defending folks-- things like that. That is the name that it is known by around town here.

Mr. Johnson: The Kangaroo court?

Mr. Allison: I think it might be a good thing if some men who have been in some of those cases and heard Mr. Flannigan's pleas before the juries-- I think it would be a good thing if they could tell you some of the things that they have heard him say as he has pleaded for his clients before that court.

Mr. Baker: After the election of Mr. Schaumleffel he appointed a colored man as assistant district attorney?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now has there been any effort since July 2nd to get a committee of people together in East St. Louis for the purpose of changing conditions, save and except the noted Committee of One Hundred that we have heard about?

Mr. Allison: That is practically all.

Mr. Baker: Do you believe that if a hundred of the people of East St. Louis, interested for the good and welfare of the community, would get together for that purpose, including all elements-- I mean by that the men in all walks of life, and women-- we know that men and women who are directly interested, and who have courage and conviction to do right-- that when they do try, they get results?

Mr. Allison: I am sure they do.

Mr. Baker: You feel that through their various sub-committees they could present the situation to the various city officials, so that good would come from it?

Mr. Allison: I am sure of that.

Mr. Baker: Well now, just why has not that been done, and why don't they do it now? They have got an opportunity now when everybody is willing to help them.

Mr. Allison: If this city can't be cleansed now, it will be a terrible shame. But here is one of the things to contend against, to get people together in East St. Louis. There are lots of good people here, scores and scores of them.

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Mr. Baker: We will admit that.

Mr. Allison: In different walks of life. But to show you what I ran into during our last campaign here for the commission form of government; I had a laboring man who stopped me on the street and said "Laboring men can't stand for the commission form of government." I said "Why?" He said "Why, it will disfranchise the laboring man." Now he had that sort of thing panned out to him from this very source that was fighting the commission form of government. A corporation man called me in and said this: "Why, we can't be for the commission form of government. The laboring men will control this town." Now he had gotten his earful. Then they went among the Catholic people and said "Be against this thing; it is a Protestant move." And they went among the Protestant folks and said "You be against this commission form of government; it's a Catholic move."

Mr. Baker: So the corrupt bunch arrays the laboring man against the large concerns, and the large concerns against the laboring man; the protestants against the catholics, and the catholics against the protestants, for the purpose of keeping them out?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Baker: And at the same time they keep manipulative things?

Mr. Allison: Sure. And another thing, they try to create distrust. They try to get the people in general

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to mistrust a man. I had a man meet me on the street, a fellow who is just an average fellow, and he had been panned out something of that kind, because he asked me if this commission form of government carries-- he says "What office does that elect you to?" That was to me. I said, "It don't elect me to any office. There isn't anybody running for office, and I wouldn't have an office." And I tried to explain to him that an office here would limit me rather than give me an opportunity to do anything in this situation here-- and I am sure it would.

Now they stage all sorts of things. I don't know the rumors that have come to me from different sources about my ambitions and my desires. The whole thing is to create mistrust. That is the supreme game here, to create a mistrust for any man who would undertake to be fair and try to do something that was right.

Mr. Foster: Isn't that, Mr. Allison, very often the case in all elections; not to fight it out on the merits, but to mix up all sorts of ^{side} issues; array protestant against catholic, and catholic against protestant, and all that sort of thing?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Foster: And tell all sorts of stories on a man-- and of course whether they are true or not, that is another thing, but don't you believe that that is one evil in our politics of this country?

Mr. Allison: Oh, I am sure of that-- assassination of character. It is a despicable thing.

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Mr. Foster: Now another thing, East St. Louis voted for a commission form of government?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: And it will be put in operation at the next election, in 1917?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: In your judgment do you think it will better the conditions in East St. Louis, unless this element which is in East St. Louis-- and in many cities throughout the country the same way-- possibly to a more or less extent-- do you think it will do any good unless these people rouse up to their duty?

Mr. Allison: They will have to.

Mr. Foster: As residents of this city they will have to?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir; the commission form of government is nothing only as it is supported by the people. That is true of any law.

Mr. Foster: Of course it may be easier to put the responsibility of it on the officials to which it belongs.

Mr. Allison: Oh/yes, most assuredly.

Mr. Foster: But it will do no good unless the people between now and April, 1917, wake up to the fact that they owe a duty-- and I am speaking of the merchants and business men and lawyers and doctors and all walks of life.

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Foster: They must rouse up their minds to

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better conditions; to take an interest in the elections?

Mr. Allison: They will have to do it.

Mr. Foster: That every man who is a voter owes a duty to his government. He has a chance to make his government what it should be when election time comes, and should exercise his honest judgment as to men and candidates that will be for the very best interest of the country in his particular locality. Now unless he does that, you won't get anything out of it?

Mr. Allison: Nothing at all.

Mr. Foster: So I hope that between now and April, 1919, that the good people-- because I know there are lots of them here in East St. Louis-- will look after that.

Mr. Allison: They have got to learn to have faith in each other.

Mr. Foster: That is it exactly.

Mr. Allison: Faith in men is just as essential to the peace and prosperity of the community as the ethical dictum that faith in God is essential to salvation.

Mr. Johnson: There is such a thing as misplaced confidence in men, though?

Mr. Allison: Yes.

Mr. Foster: I was going to say that they have confidence, of course, until they find that a man is one of the goats?

Mr. Allison: That is right.

Mr. Foster: And then he is put out of the flock?

Mr. Allison: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Cooper: It is to the highest interests of laboring men, then, in this city, and it is to the highest interest of the merchants of the city, the professional men and every other class of citizens, without regard to particular business, to see that the men ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ selected in 1919 as commissioners are above reproach?

Mr. Allison: It must be so.

Mr. Foster: And it is just as much to the interest of the little man, as well as the big property holders?

Mr. Allison: Certainly.

Mr. Foster: That all classes of citizens who desire to have a good form of government, of every walk in life, to go and vote their honest, conscientious belief?

Mr. Allison: Most assuredly.

Mr. Johnson: I take it for granted from what you yourself have said that you have struggled along through life as a laborer on the railroad trains, and have continued that struggle through a theological seminary into the ministry, without having accumulated much of the world's goods?

Mr. Allison: Well, I haven't been troubled with filthy lucre so far.

Mr. Johnson: What I am getting at is, that you continue to be a poor man, and when this suit was filed against you, the people who filed it knew that when they got a judgment against you there would be a return of nulla bona, of no property found? They weren't seeking

the money but were seeking your embarrassment?

Mr. Allison: It seemed that way to me.

Mr. Johnson: It is a quite clear case to me that they were.

Mr. Allison: I have copies of letters which I wrote offering to settle it, pleading that nothing like that be done; that it wouldn't be of any avail; that if I wanted to fight it they couldn't sign it, and all such things. But it was gone on with and filed just the same.

Mr. Johnson: Well, sir, we thank you for your attendance. #Mr. Kelly, you wanted to correct some statement that you made?

STATEMENT OF *Jas. M.* KELLEY, City Comptroller
(Continued.)

Mr. Kelly: I wanted to ~~xxxxxx~~ straighten out a little matter about this salary matter. I think Congressman Foss asked me the other day what salaries were paid the firemen, what they got; and I told him eighty dollars. Well, that is all the city paid them: That is what was authorized by the City Council, and what they have been paid by the city, but I find that now they have raised their salaries ten dollars, being paid out of this fund that was raised by the various corporations and others; that the ordinary fireman now gets \$90 instead of \$80. I wanted to make that correction.

44 know, Mr. Foster? ~~xx~~

Note: Kelley

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Mr. Foster: That was all.

Mr. Kelly: You didn't want to know about this probational period?

Mr. Foster: No; that's all.

Mr. Johnson: Will you take the stand, Mr. Anderson?

STATEMENT OF PAUL Y. ANDERSON (continued.)

Mr. Johnson: Already you have been sworn, and now you are recalled to the witness stand for the purpose of making a statement about this child who was abducted and murdered.

Mr. Anderson: Can I first make a statement with regard to those affidavits of those negroes who said that Mr. Schaumleffel had tried to line them up for Vollman? I have that in this file.

Mr. Johnson: Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Anderson: This paper that I referred to is the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sunday morning, April 1st, 1917. The article is headed: "Coercion tried by Vollman Leaders, Negroes Swear." It pertains to affidavits which were obtained by myself and city attorney Joseph McGlynn from several negroes, and I think it will explain itself better if I just read it:

|| "The East St. Louis mayoralty campaign, in which Fred W. Vollman, candidate for reelection, and the city administration ticket, was opposed by John Donhoff on the good government ticket, became lively yesterday when it was made known that negro ward politicians had been

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called to the office of N. T. Pardon, negro assistant State's Attorney, and told they would be expected to vote for Mollman. State's Attorney H. V. Schaumleffel, of Belleville, Pardon's superior, was said to have been present at the conference.

"Yesterday afternoon a number of negro women who are qualified to vote at municipal elections were summoned to Pardon's office. Seven of the negroes made affidavits before City Attorney McGlynn, who is a candidate for reelection on the same ticket with Tomhoff. They said they had been summoned to Pardon's office by city detective Louis Moll, and made a sworn statement that he and four other men were called into the presence of State's Attorney Schaumleffel, Pardon, former sheriff William L. Conry and Detective Green"-- who is a negro. "According to Moll's affidavit, State's Attorney Schaumleffel said, 'I can work with Mollman if he is elected. I can't work with Tomhoff. He and his friends tried to run me into the river when I ran for state's Attorney, and if he is elected he will run us all into the river. If Mollman gets in, things will loosen up and we will all have a good time and make a little money.'

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"Jesse Furgett, formerly a negro saloon keeper, made an affidavit in which he quoted Schaumleffel as stating that if Tomhoff was elected, Schaumleffel would close the town so tight that nobody can make a dime, and the town will be run by preachers."

"Matt Robinson, one of those called in, told the

Post-Despatch Reporter that Schaurleffel had declared to him that: 'If Donhoff is elected, I'll close up this town and put a lock on it. We'll have one big church and preachers talking on all the street corners.'

"Tom File, whose saloon license recently was revoked, declared Schaurleffel promised him he would get his saloon license restored in the Black Valley if he supported Mayor Vollman.

"Among others at Darden's office were negroes known as 'Korhead Nelson', 'Red-shirt Frank', 'Alabama Jack', 'Seven hundred dollar Jimmie', 'Long Tom Lewis'.

"Darden when seen by the Post-Despatch reporter last night said that some of those negroes were taken to his office by East St. Louis city detectives, and State's Attorney Schaurleffel was there to meet them. He denied all of the assertions in the negro affidavits, and said Schaurleffel told them that Donhoff had tried to defeat him and to injure his reputation when he ran for his present office, and he believed that if Donhoff were elected Mayor he wouldn't aid him in enforcing the law, but that Vollman would." //

Mr. Foster: What date is that?

Mr. Anderson: April 1st, 1917, two days before the municipal election.

Mr. Foster: Who wrote that?

Mr. Anderson: I did.

Mr. Foster: Do you know those facts to be true?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Foster: Those are taken from the affidavits?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; I got the affidavits myself, and city attorney McGlynn acknowledged them as a notary public. I believe I later turned them over to Mr. Allison.

Mr. Johnson: Is that all you desire to say on that subject?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Go ahead, now, relative to the other matter.

Mr. Anderson: You want me to tell about the Vagarin case?

Mr. Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: The name of the child murdered was Alphonse Vagarian. He was three years old, and the son of A. D. Vagarian, an Armenian baker who lived, I believe, at 19 North 16th Street.

Mr. Cooper: How do you spell that?

Mr. Anderson: V-a-g-a-r-i-a-n. If my memory is correct, the child was abducted from his home on the afternoon of October 4, 1915. Immediately after that the child's father offered a reward of \$2,000 for the return of the child. It was not found until either the 9th or 10th of the same month, when two negroes searching on the city dump at 16th Street and Broadway found the headless body of the child wrapped up in a newspaper and tied up in a gunny-sack. The head was entirely gone and was not found until more than a week later, when it was found buried in

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another city dump about a mile away from there. There were a number of people arrested in connection with it. Some of them were released. I remember there was a Turk named Jim Alli, who was arrested, and an Armenian by the name of Albogesian. I think that Lex Droit and his wife, and possibly one or two other men, were arrested at that time by the police, but were turned loose. Lex Droit and his wife operated a house of prostitution next door to the Magarin bakery, over the saloon of Paul Mike, who I think was a Bulgarian. Magarin made several complaints about the place and finally succeeded in having it raided. Later on-- the Droit gang were not prosecuted by the local authorities. The thing drifted on for a long time, and finally the United States District Attorney, Mr. Varch, took it up and collected a lot of evidence and caused a prosecution of Droit, his wife, a man named Charles Furke, and a man named James Campbell. There was also a warrant issued for a man by the name of Dan Sullivan. These last three men were supposed to be hangers-on around this place, and Sullivan was never apprehended. He charged them, I believe, with using the rails in an attempt to extort money. A letter was sent to Magarin some time after the body of the child was found-- or just before-- I think he got two letters-- demanding that unless he deposited a certain amount of money at a certain place in St. Louis that the rest of the family would be killed and the house would be blown up. He never deposited that money. He made arrangements with detectives in St. Louis to take the money over there and get the men, but his family

were so frightened that they didn't allow him to go. Well, this Federal prosecution fell through. The case was opened, and it was discovered that because of a technical rule of evidence of some sort, that the evidence couldn't be introduced in the case, and Mr. Farch withdrew the case upon the promise of state's Attorney Schaurleffel that warrants for murder would be issued against those people, and that was done.

The case was tried some time later in Belleville, Mr. Schaurleffel prosecuting, and Droit, Hamzel and Furke were all acquitted.

Previous to this and subsequent to the dismissal of the other case, the Droit woman was sentenced to a year in the penitentiary on a white slave charge.

47 The principal witnesses against these people were two girls who had been inmates of the house, one named Sylvia Upton, a girl just about sixteen years old, and the other hardened offender by the name of Berta Franz. The Franz woman confessed to having been implicated in the abduction of the child. She said that she lured it into the house, into a wine-room in the rear of the saloon, and below the Droit chambers, after Charlie Furke had promised her \$25 if she did it. She got the child in there with candy, and then she left it with Furke. It was never seen afterwards until the body was found. Some members of Magarin's family saw her call the child in there with candy.

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There was some testimony by Sylvania Upton, who overheard a conversation just previous to the abduction of the child between the Droit woman and these men, in which Mrs. Droit said they would "get even with the son of a bitch", and there was some mention of "getting his kid-- getting 'Agarin's kid." It was after that that the boy was abducted.

I don't remember the details of the testimony, but it was very strong, and another witness was a negro who was an inmate of the Federal prison at Danville at the time the men were held there, and he told of hearing a conversation between two of them, Burke and Campbell, I am sure, in which one of them said to the other one "If you hadn't taken the damn thing out there and thrown it on the dump, we would have gotten away; but now we're here." The other one replied "Well, no use in worrying about that now; what we've got to do is to figure a way to get out of it." That was the main feature of the testimony, and the men were acquitted. I think the jury stood on the third ballot seven to five for conviction. I learned later that a member of the jury said in the jury-room-- at least I was told that-- "We are not going to convict a white man for killing a damn Nigger."

The only testimony of the defendants was simply alibi witnesses, with Campbell and Burke and Droit testifying in their own behalf. There was no other testimony for them.

Mr. Cooper: Who owned that building in which that Droit crowd of prostitutes were doing business, and Sylvia Upton?

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Mr. Anderson: I will explain that-- how I got my information. During this last municipal campaign there were charges made that the building was owned by Canavan and Carlton. Mr. Canavan spoke to me about it and said "They are trying to blame me for the murder of this child." He added that they did own the building, but didn't know anything about it. He also mentioned the fact that Lex Droit was a nephew of Dr. McTracken, health commissioner here, and I believe that was included in the charges that were made during the campaign.

Mr. Cooper: So your recollection is that on the trial of these people for that murder, two of the men defendants testified for themselves and the other one had an alibi?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; principally by members of the family. He was later-- that one man-- the only man who had any testimony in his own behalf-- he was later taken back to the penitentiary on violation of parole, and now is in the penitentiary.

The other two men didn't have any testimony in their own behalf and went free.

Now since that time, through Mr. Yarch's efforts, warrants have been issued for Droit and Burke, I believe, on a charge of kidnapping, and I am sure they have been indicted and the case is now pending.

Mr. Cooper: This same case?

Mr. Anderson: Yes-- that is, the kidnapping charge. I didn't mention Berta Franz, previous to the trial of

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this case in the State court, committed suicide by throwing herself under a train.

Mr. Johnson: What was her name?

Mr. Anderson: Berta Franz.

Mr. Cooper: Where did she commit suicide, in this city?

Mr. Anderson: No, at pecatur.

Mr. Cooper: Well, was she to be a witness in the trial?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, a most important witness-- the most important witness.

Mr. Cooper: She was the most important witness for the State on the trial?

Mr. Anderson: Oh yes.

Mr. Foster: Which was to come off?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Foster: How long before that trial was it that her body was found on the railroad track?

Mr. Anderson: Only a very short time. I think about two or three weeks.

Mr. Foster: Was there positive evidence to show that it was suicide, or don't you know?

Mr. Anderson: I am not familiar with that. I understand that there was a coroner's inquest and a verdict of suicide.

Mr. Foster: Well, there was a coroner's inquest and a verdict of accident in the case of that woman down in New York, that Means is now indicted for murdering.

Mr. Anderson: Oh yes.

Mr. Cooper: A coroner's inquest doesn't mean very much. It depends on who is conducting it. You don't know what the testimony was?

Mr. Anderson: No, sir, I don't. I don't know at all.

Mr. Foster: There were some people very strongly interested in having her out of the way, weren't there?

Mr. Anderson: There is no question about that. Sylvia Upton was frightened to death at all times.

Mr. Cooper: Afraid they would kill her?

Mr. Anderson: Absolutely. She told me several times she was scared, badly scared, and they had a great deal of trouble in getting her to testify. Mr. March had to keep somebody watching her all the time. He had to keep her over the river. He kept her over in St. Louis. She was fearful of her life.

Mr. Cooper: How long after the murder did the trial take place?

Mr. Anderson: Well, the trial was this year. I think the murder was in October, 1916.

Mr. Cooper: Who prosecuted the case?

Mr. Anderson: Schaumleffel.

Mr. Cooper: Who owned the building?

Mr. Anderson: Canavan and Tarlton.

Mr. Cooper: That's all.

Mr. Ray: There was some request about assessments. Have you got those?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Baker: Could you give it to the Committee now?

Mr. Foster: How did you get those assessments?

Mr. Anderson: Off of the books.

Mr. Foster: Yourself?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. I spent nearly all night adding them up. I haven't the date on this.

Mr. Johnson: Go slowly with this if there are figures in there.

Mr. Anderson: The story from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, printed in the early part of 1915--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing:): Written by yourself?

Mr. Anderson: Written by myself, yes.

Mr. Foster: That was on the tax that would be levied in 1916-- paid in 1916?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: In East St. Louis?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Cooper: Did you yourself personally make that from the records?

Mr. Anderson: Every one.

Mr. Cooper: In this city, in East St. Louis?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I read some of it off to a stenographer, who used an adding machine.

(Reading:): "Examination today of the assessment books of East St. Louis, which have just been opened after having been in the hands of the board of review since last October, reveal startling reductions in the assessments of

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many large corporations by the board.

"The assessments made last fall by City Assessor Michael O'Day were increased by county treasurer Fred Warning when the assessment books reached him. Warning gave great publicity to his increases. County political affairs in St. Clair County are largely in the hands of the supporters of Congressman Rodenburg, Warning being one of his close friends, as also are the members of the Board of Review, a board composed of William A. Swartztrauber, of East Carondelet; Frank W. Miller, a brother of Edward Miller, Congressman Rodenburg's political manager; and Charles E. Krebs, of Belleville.

"The books show that the St. Louis Bridge Company was assessed at \$3,500,000 by Assessor O'Day on the east half of the Reds Bridge. The board cut the assessment to \$2,500,000. For the last four years it has been assessed at \$3,150,000.

"The Aluminum Company of America was assessed by O'Day at \$699,990. Treasurer Warning raised it to \$799,990. The board cut it to \$200,010.

"92 lots owned by the Wiggins Ferry Company were assessed by O'Day at \$1,518,470. This assessment was cut by the board to \$803,245. The assessment of these lots was cut exactly in half by the board, and in some instances the board cut the Wiggins properties but left unchanged the assessment on adjacent lots owned by individuals.

"Two Wiggins' lots were cut from \$655 to \$750; and from \$460 to \$330, while a lot between the two, and owned by Joseph P. Wette, was assessed at \$1770, and the assessment was left unchanged.

"Another Wiggins' lot was cut from \$1140 to \$1050, while an adjacent lot owned by Carlin Renshaw was left unchanged at \$1320.

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"The plant of the Malleable Iron Company was assessed by O'Day at \$465,000. It was raised by Warning to \$519,000, and was cut by the board to \$132,000.

"As a contrast, the plant of the American Steel Foundries was assessed by O'Day at \$454,990; raised by Warning to \$507,000, and cut by the Board to O'Day's original assessment.

"Assessor O'Day told a Post-Dispatch Reporter that the plant of the Malleable Iron Company was a much more valuable plant than the American Steel Foundries; that it occupied 7,000 square feet more ground. It was assessed by the board, however, at only about one-third as much.

"The Republic Iron & Steel Company was assessed by O'Day at \$21,330; raised by Warning to \$63,990, and cut by the board to \$16,788.

"The Elliott Frog & Switch Company was assessed by O'Day at \$12,290; raised by Warning to \$24,420, and cut by the board to \$9,000.

"Lots owned by the City Water Company were assessed by O'Day at \$9,660, and cut by the board to \$2,220.

"These assessments fixed by the board will stand

for four years.

"Under the changes made by the board, the St. Louis Bridge Company will save in taxes in four years \$116,654. The Wiggins Ferry Company will save \$84,110; the Aluminum Company of America, \$69,952; the Malleable Iron Company, \$45,148.

"Although the assessments of most of the big corporations were reduced, the appraisements of the majority of the small householders were increased. These increases, however, so far failed to counter-balance the decreases in the city's revenue, which on the basis of the present tax rate of \$1.20 for city purposes, will be reduced \$20,000."

Mr. Johnson: Who appointed that board of review?

Mr. Anderson: That is appointed by the County Judge.

Mr. Johnson: What was his name?

Mr. Anderson: Joseph Messick. The chairman of the board is ex-officio the chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Johnson: The County-Judge is ex-officio?

Mr. Anderson: No, the chairman of the board of review is chairman by virtue of his position as chairman of the board of supervisors. The other two members are appointed.

Mr. Johnson: What attorneys represented these various corporations in the effort to have these assessments reduced?

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Mr. Anderson: My recollection is that the most prominent attorney in that capacity was Mr. John L. Flannigan.

Mr. Johnson: Name some other attorneys that figured in it.

Mr. Anderson: I don't remember anybody else who represented corporations-- I believe that Joseph Messick, Jr., did also.

Mr. Johnson: He is the son of the man who appointed the board of review?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; that is correct. I didn't see him there. Another man who is reported to have represented a number of people on a percentage basis was William Roderburger, formerly City Comptroller. It was said that he got a certain percentage of the amount which was taken off of the assessments. That was very current. I heard a lot of that.

Mr. Foster: Why would he get that percentage?

Mr. Anderson: I suppose for his legal services. I never knew of him having any other cases.

Mr. Baker: What did Miller have to do with it? You referred to Miller.

Mr. Anderson: Eddie Miller formerly was secretary to Congressman Rodenberg. He was sort of a republican political boss in the city, and had at that time, several years ago, almost as much influence as Locke Tarlton is supposed to have now-- and obtained it by the same means. I have personally seen him pay men after elections. I recall, I think it was the Congressional election before

the last one-- down in the old post office building, I believe-- or close to it--

Mr. Foster (Interposing:) What old post office building?

Mr. Anderson: At Main Street and Division. I saw a bunch of negroes-- I guess there were 200-- file past him, and he had a stack of bills about that high (indicating about one foot), five dollar bills, and as each man came past he presented a card of some sort and in return got \$5.

Mr. Johnson: Back negro who passed by gave Eddie a card?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: And Eddie gave him five dollars?

Mr. Anderson: Yes. That is the common practice around here at all elections. After the election is over the workers go up to the headquarters and file past and are paid. That is open. There is no attempt at concealment.

Mr. Baker: What was his business at that time-- at this time?

Mr. Anderson: Miller?

Mr. Baker: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: I am sure he was in the real estate and insurance business.

Mr. Baker: What other business did he have? Did he have any secretarial position in any way?

Mr. Anderson: Well, at the time I speak of he was not secretary to Congressman Rodenberg. However, he was his political manager-- campaign manager, and has been ever since I have been around here.

Mr. Johnson: Where is he now?

Mr. Anderson: He is in the city, I am sure. He attended this hearing two or three times.

Mr. Johnson: Eddie Miller?

Mr. Anderson: Yes. There were some further reductions--

Mr. Baker (Interposing:): Just before you leave that now, what could have been the reason or the object of those reductions? Of course I realize that the man who had to pay the taxes would want that, but these other parties that are interested, ^{just} how could they accomplish that?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I have a very clearly defined theory of what might have happened, but no facts on which to base it.

Mr. Baker: Well, you were on the ground. They were reduced for some purpose. Here was Judge Messick's son; the Judge appointed one of the board, the son represents that. Here are these other people coming in there after the political matters. The chairman of the board of supervisors-- or a member of this board-- was running a saloon, wasn't he?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Baker: And afterwards his license was taken away from him?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Baker: And he is still in that kind of business?

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Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: So it would look as though it wouldn't take much scheming to get this kind of work done, and then further-- before you make answer to this-- were these assessments handled over here and then no record made of it until a month or two after they got them over to Belleville?

Mr. Anderson: If I remember correctly, the hearings were held here in the City Hall, and the books-- the assessment books-- were then removed to Belleville; and after they got to Belleville the cuts were recorded. They were recorded in red ink, and it was not until the books came back down to East St. Louis the following spring that I found them, and that was the first time it became public. Nothing has ever been generally known about it until the Post-Dispatch printed it. That was the first general knowledge of it.

Mr. Cooper: That must be three or four months after they were made?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, it was. I might say in a sort of poetic justice that it was Mr. Canavan that advised me to look for that.

Mr. Baker: Look for the reductions?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; he told me he thought I would find that condition if I examined the books, and I did, and did find it.

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Mr. Raker: Now give us your deductions from all of this, as you have said you would?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I can easily picture conditions that might result from it.

Of course these big corporations saved an enormous amount of money by these reductions, and they could afford to pay out a considerable part of that in attorneys' fees, and the attorneys could deposit that money in a common fund to be used in a political election that was to follow: Or they could reimburse the members of the board of review, who had gone to the trouble to make the reductions.

Mr. Raker: It took some trouble to make reductions like that?

Mr. Anderson: They were very stiff reductions.

Mr. Raker: And the city has lost enough money to-- been beaten out of enough taxes, that had they been properly assessed and collected would have run its government during this time, practically?

Mr. Anderson: Well, it would have been an enormous help. I think that the decrease in revenue which resulted from these reductions was just exactly the amount by which the city was short in 1915 of what it needed for its expenditures.

Mr. Raker: Then if that had been attended to properly they wouldn't have had to go to a great pretended humanitarian banker who made five per cent on the warrants and then got interest on the money in the bank, to come now and claim that he is protecting the city, would they?

Mr. Anderson: That is just exactly what they wouldn't have had to do.

Mr. Baker: Go ahead now.

Mr. Anderson: In a statement printed subsequently to that, also undated, it says:

"A further examination of the assessor's books today revealed that the board of review reduced the assessment of the St. Clair County Gas & Electric Company's plant near 19th Street and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks from \$250,000, where County Treasurer Warning placed it, to \$90,000.

53 "Perusal of the assessor's books of Stites Township in the County Court-House at Belleville yesterday showed more interesting tax reductions by the St. Clair County Board of Review. The assessment on personal property of the St. Louis National Stockyards was placed at \$9,867 by the assessor. This was not changed by the county treasurer, Fred Warning, supervisor of assessments, nor was it changed by the board of review.

"Swift & Company was assessed at \$42,873; raised by Warning to \$428,619, and lowered by the board of review to \$54,110.

"Morris & Company's assessment was at placed at \$34,309; raised by Warning to \$402,927, and the board of review lowered it to \$53,600."

Mr. Baker: One moment there. Did you say from \$402,000 down to \$53,000?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. There is a greater reduc-

tion than that in Swift & Company's assessment just preceding it-- that I read just previous to that.

Mr. Baker: I thought I misunderstood you about that.

Mr. Foster: What was Swift & Company? That was that plant?

Mr. Anderson: The personal property of the plant of Swift & Company, the packers?

Mr. Foster: You are speaking now of the personal assessment?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, of the personal assessment.

(Reading:) "Armour & Company, the third big packing plant in Stites Township, was assessed at \$40,019 by the local assessor. Warning raised this to \$420,057, and the board of review lowered it to \$55,100."

"The East St. Louis Cotton Oil Company was assessed at \$1492; raised by warning to \$19,474, and put back by the board of review to \$1492."

Mr. Baker: \$1400?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: From what?

Mr. Anderson: \$19,000.

Mr. Cooper: Is that the plant where they worked ten 12 hours a day, two shifts?

Mr. Anderson: That is the plant, the East St. Louis Cotton Oil Company.

Mr. Cooper: Then when they struck they put other

people back to work in the same place?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That was assessed for 1927?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: But you wouldn't expect those poor people to have to pay taxes, would you (laughter)?

Mr. Anderson (Reading:) "The assessment against the Aluminum Cooking Utensil Company of East St. Louis was placed at \$25,675 by city assessor O'Day. Warning raised it to \$1,000,000, and it was lowered by the board of review to \$7,000. City Assessor O'Day, it is understood, placed the stock on hand valuation of the company at \$700,000 instead of \$70,000, as he had planned. That, it is understood, caused the unusual large raise in the assessment by the County Treasurer."

Mr. Cooper: Just say that once more.

Mr. Anderson: You mean the last sentence?

Mr. Cooper: About the Aluminum Company.

Mr. Anderson (Reading:) "The assessment against the Aluminum Cooking Utensil Company of East St. Louis was placed at \$25,675 by City Assessor O'Day. Warning raised it to \$1,000,000, and it was lowered by the board of review to \$7,000. City Assessor O'Day, it is understood, placed the stock on hand valuation of the company at \$700,000 instead of \$70,000, as he had planned. This, it is understood, caused the large raise in the assessment by the County Treasurer."

That statement is obscure there, because if he had

placed it-- had intended to place the stock on hand valuation at \$70,000, the total assessment would be more than \$85,000, and that is what the original assessment was. That is the statement of somebody who is trying to cover up something, I think.

Mr. Cooper: You spoke a moment ago about Judge Messick's son.

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Is he a son of Judge Messick, who is a clerk of the election committee at a salary of \$100 a month?

Mr. Anderson: The son is the clerk, or has been. I am not certain whether he is yet or not.

Mr. Cooper: He doesn't do anything but draw a salary, does he?

Mr. Anderson: I never saw him doing anything else. He is a very pleasant young man.

Mr. Cooper: He could afford to ^{be doing} nothing for \$100 a month?

Mr. Anderson: Yes; I would imagine that is the reason why he was pleasant. (Laughter)

Mr. Cooper: Who gave him that job?

Mr. Anderson: Either the chairman of the board of election commissioners or the County Judge. It comes from one of those two sources.

Mr. Johnson: Is it true that Judge Messick, whose son has this position with the Board of Election Commissioners, appoints the board of election commissioners?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And then these appointees of Judge Messick appoint the clerk?

Mr. Anderson: Either they appoint him or he appoints him himself-- I am not certain. I think they appoint him.

Mr. Johnson: In either event, the employment of a son comes directly from the father?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; it all has the same source.

Mr. Johnson: Have you ever undertaken to get up a list of the various corporations that Judge Messick's son represented before the board of taxes here?

Mr. Anderson: No, sir; I have not. It is very hard to get at those kind of things; and besides, we have had a lot of other more crying matters to investigate around here since that time.

Mr. Cooper: Has Mr. Casavan got a son?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Has he got a job?

Mr. Anderson: Oh yes.

Mr. Cooper: What is it?

Mr. Anderson: He is an employe of the levee board.

Mr. Cooper: What does he do?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I imagine that his duties are largely similar to those of Mr. Messick.

Mr. Cooper: He draws a salary of how much?

Mr. Anderson: I think one hundred dollars a month.

Mr. Cooper: He looks pleasant too, I suppose (laughter)?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I don't know him.

Mr. Cooper: Has Mr. Tarlton got any relatives?

Mr. Anderson: Tarlton has a little two or three year old girl. He has no sons who are on the payroll. The only relative that I ever heard mentioned conspicuously in connection with him is his father-in-law, a Mr. Schafer, of Belleville, general counsel for the East St. Louis & Suburban Railway Company, that often get franchises in this city.

Mr. Baker: Didn't he have an old school-mate friend in his business-- wasn't there something said about that?

Mr. Anderson: No.

Mr. Baker: Didn't Tarlton have an old school-mate friend that he said he couldn't stop her business because she was an old school-mate friend?

Mr. Anderson: I think I have heard something about it, but I don't remember what it was. I don't think he ever went to school very long, except the school of politics. He is a post-graduate of that.

You wanted me to tell something about Sullivan?

Mr. Baker: Yes, go on and tell about the relations of Mr. Sullivan. That is what I want you to present.

Mr. Anderson: This is ^{very} a long recital here.

Mr. Johnson: Just give the substance of it as concisely as you can.

Mr. Anderson (Reading:): "Charges that members of the board of trustees of the East Side Levee and Sanitary District have been guilty of extravagance and favoritism in their official capacity are being made by re-

Republican campaign officers in an effort to prevent the reelection of G. L. Tarlton of East St. Louis and P. W. Sunderland of Madison, democrats.

"Tarlton and Sunderland are the only members of the board who are seeking reelection. The other candidates on the democratic ticket are M. J. Flynn, Harry S. Kramer and Elmer J. Gaylord, Sr.

"The republican candidates are Rudolph Kushley, John Thomas, William Launtz, Charles W. Rudisell and William Powell.

"Mayor F. W. Hollman, of East St. Louis, Robert E. Conroy and E. R. Jones will retire after the coming election.

"While C. Verlie, of East St. Louis, lawyer, has made several campaign speeches in which he has alleged that a certain contractor was favored by the board in the letting of important construction work, and that members of the board and their friends made profits by so ~~arranging~~ ordering the execution of certain drainage projects that it would benefit property which they owned. Verlie in his speeches has alleged that the board has deliberately set aside the plan of action of the original board in such a way that only favored sections have benefitted from the building of canals and drainage ditches; and that the elimination of Cahokia Creek from East St. Louis has not been accomplished.

"The Levee and Sanitary District as created by the Illinois legislature was designed to include all of that

territory in Madison and St. Clair counties ~~where it~~ *which* was flooded in the high water of 1903. Political opponents of the present board are pointing out that the drainage work has been carried outside the prescribed district, to the direct benefit of the property owned by Tarlton, his real estate firm of Canavan & Tarlton, and others, east of Mitchell and about twelve miles northeast of East St. Louis in Madison County. In this neighborhood Cahokia Creek has been cleared of rubbish and driftwood; the channel has been straightened, and a drainage canal about 5,000 feet long has been constructed out of the Board's funds.

"Of the property drained by these operations, 128 acres is owned by Tarlton, 152 acres by the firm of Canavan & Tarlton, and 502 acres by a syndicate of which the Illinois State Trust Company is trustee. Thomas Gillespie, brother of Robert Gillespie, president of the Illinois State Trust Company, is counsel for the board.

"Republican campaigners exhibit the records of the board to show that no contracts were let for the clearing of Cahokia Creek channel, which cost \$6,686, although the statute creating the board specifically provided that bids must be advertised for on all work costing more than \$500. In the same way a cut-over to straighten a channel was made at an expense of \$8,647. In each instance the records show that the board voted to instruct J. A. Smith, its chief engineer, to hire labor and do the work with such equipment as he had at that time on hand, without

advertising for bids. The canal, about a mile long, through the property owned by Tarlton and his real estate firm, was built by John Feeley, an East St. Louis contractor. The contract was awarded to him in October, 1914, at 18 cents a cubic yard. Then came the letting of a much larger contract in connection with which opponents of the present board alleged district favoritism was shown to contractor Feeley and a new plan was started to benefit Tarlton and his friends through the appreciation of the property which they had acquired.

"The original plan of the first board was to leave Horseshoe Lake, north of Granite City and about in the center of the drainage district, as a small reservoir to take up excess water from the surrounding low lands in time of flood. This was part of the plan which the first board had incorporated in an ordinance which it adopted soon after its organization in 1909. The present board in May, 1915, repealed this ordinance, and soon afterwards began preparations for a new and costly piece of work known as 'Project No. 11.' This work, which is under way, is the construction of a canal to be 47,000 feet, or approximately nine miles, long, to drain Horseshoe Lake ⁱⁿ to the Mississippi. Horseshoe Lake and the territory which it overflows in rainy weather covers approximately 1,000 acres. The plat books show 1640 acres. This mingled land and water is owned by Tarlton, and 824 acres by T. J. Sullivan, corporation counsel of East St. Louis. It was acquired a short time before the Levee Board voted to execute project No. 11"--

Mr. Cooper (Interposing:) Now wait a minute.

Mr. Anderson: That isn't all.

Mr. Cooper: Well, go ahead.

Mr. Anderson (reading:) -- "the nine mile canal which when completed would drain this land, which is now practically worthless, and will change it into suitable land for farming or for real estate subdivision. Bids on the building of the first section of the nine mile canal were opened September 1st, 1913. The board in its advertisement specified that it wanted bids only on the first 2,900 feet, but it reserved the right to award the contract for the entire 47,000 feet to the lowest and best bidder on the first section. Keeley bid ten cents a cubic yard; the Indiana Dredging Company 8.93 cents; R. A. Brown, East St. Louis, 8 cents; A. H. Hall, 18 cents. The other contractors bid lower than Keeley, but the board declared him to be the lowest and best bidder. Brown's bid of 8 cents was thrown out on the ground that a certified check accompanying it was not made out in the prescribed form, and for the further reason that his bid was accompanied by a note in which he said that if the entire contract should be awarded to him he would do the work for six cents a cubic yard, or 4 cents a yard cheaper than Keeley's bid.

"The Indiana Dredging Company's bid, also lower than Keeley's, was thrown out because it was not in duplicate; was not enclosed in the proper number of envelopes, and contained an accompanying note which bid on a larger portion of work than the specifications called for in submitting

bids to the Board. Engineer Smith reminded the Board that it had the right to ignore such technical formalities and consider all the bids as eligible. The board awarded the contract to ~~Kelley~~ ^{Keeley,} and soon afterwards, without asking for additional bids, it extended this contract so as to cover the entire 47,000 feet of the canal. Rasing their figures on his estimate that one million cubic feet of earth will be excavated on this job, opponents of the present Levee Board administration say that there would have been a saving to the taxpayers of \$40,000 if the contract had been awarded to Brown on his low bid of six cents a cubic yard. On the first section, which called for the excavation of 155,000 cubic feet, Keeley received \$15,500; whereas Brown would have done the work for \$9,300. The Board also is criticised for awarding the entire contract to Keeley on the basis of his bid for only part of the work; while at the same time the other contractors were ruled out of the competition because they gave lower bids for a larger portion of the work than they were asked to bid on.

East St. Louis residents also are criticising the Board for its apparent departure from the original board's promise ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{that} Caloysia Creek would be removed. The first board planned to drain the creek into the Mississippi River through a large diversion canal midway between Edwardsville and Venice. This work has not been carried out by the present board.

"A letter sent to contractor F. A. Brown July 12 last, bearing the signature of Clark Nixon, ^{Clerk} ~~Secretary~~ of the board, is being used as a campaign document. Brown was one of sev-

eral bidders on the second drainage canal to be built near the southern end of the drainage district, south of East St. Louis. In the latter Brown was advised not to submit a bid, for the reason that Wood and Oakley, bond expert attorneys in Chicago, had advised the board that the issuance of bonds to pay for the work would not be legal. Brown withheld his bid, but the contract was awarded to a St. Louis contracting firm, and friends of Brown assert their belief that there was a deliberate attempt to 'freeze' them out.

Tarleton, president of the present board, has published several denials of charges of extravagance and favoritism. He said to a Post-Dispatch reporter that the board acted for the best interests of the taxpayers in temporarily changing the plan of work adopted by the old board, and in awarding the contract for the 47,000-foot canal to Keeley. The work on the shorter canal he said had been done by Keeley in a satisfactory manner, and when that work was finished Keeley had a full equipment of dredges and other machinery on the ground, which would enable him to do the work more quickly than any other contractor could do it. As to the benefitting of property which he owned, as a result of the way in which the drainage work has been ordered, Tarleton said that every act of the board had been subject to a vote of all the members, and no objection had been raised.

Tarleton said that he and his real estate firm owned property in various parts of the drainage district, and that all property in the district ultimately will be benefitted

by the work which is now being done. The drainage of Horeshoe Lake, he said, was deemed necessary, as every heavy rain caused the lake to overflow its banks, and there could be no perfect drainage of the central portion of the district so long as the lake remained there.

"Under the statute the board is permitted to expend only \$300,000 a year. Bonds are issued annually for this amount. There cannot be two issues of bonds within one period of twelve months.

"Tariton said the letter sent to contractor Brown had not been called to his attention, but he supposed it referred to Food & Oakley's general ruling on this point, as bids on the canal at the south end of the district were advertised for in July, and under the law bonds for the work could not be issued until the end of the fiscal year."

Now there is one reference there to Tariton's statement that I want to explain, in which he said that Feeley had a full equipment of dredges and other machinery on the ground, and that was the joker in awarding this 47,000 foot canal in a little piece at a time. The first bid was, I believe, on about 3,000 feet, and Feeley had all his machinery right there on hand, and of course--

Mr. Boper (Interposing:) On that particular piece of ground?

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Mr. Anderson: Right there; right at it. Therefore he could bid lower on this little piece of work than that, but if the whole nine miles had been bid on at one time the moving of machinery would have been only an insignificant

item.

Mr. Johnson: In other words, the bidders who had never done any work there and didn't know they were going to get any work there, hadn't brought their machinery to the place?

Mr. Anderson: Quite naturally.

Mr. Cooper: And the board inserted a provision which put those other bidders at a distinct disadvantage?

Mr. Anderson: At the mercy of the board. If they took a chance and bid low on that little piece, then they could put over the remainder.

Mr. Cooper: And all that pretended fairness of the board was pure sham, wasn't it?

Mr. Anderson: I think so.

Mr. Cooper: Now there is one thing I wanted to ask you about. There was a thousand acres of land up there by Scow Lake-- what do you call that?

Mr. Anderson: Horseshoe Lake. Part of it is under the lake. Part of the land owned by some of these gentlemen is right out in the middle of the lake, and it was bought before this contract to build this canal to drain the lake was let.

Mr. Baker: Still they were members of the board that knew what was going to be done?

Mr. Anderson: Yes; Warlton had been a member of the board four years previous to it.

Mr. Cooper: Here is a certain body of public officials, having power to order the drainage of certain land.

Then that land is going to be drained and so they go and buy it in advance, and then they know that a certain man has got machinery up there on a certain 12,000 feet; and they ask bids only on the 12,000 feet, saying all the rest will be let at the same figure if they want it?

Mr. Anderson: No; they said they could let that through them if they wanted to, or could not if they wanted to.

Mr. Cooper: That is worse yet. Then they order the drainage of this land that they themselves have bought in advance, knowing that it is going to be drained?

Mr. Anderson: Exactly.

Mr. Cooper: At public expense?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. Not only that, but a man who is connected with the former board told me that for sanitary reasons the maintenance of this lake there as a reservoir was absolutely essential; that this lake should never be drained; that it should be used there as a sort of a catch basin for the rains in that neighborhood-- catch it in that lake instead of allowing it to overflow on the farms around there and stand on them.

Mr. Raker: well then, the land covered with this water in Horseshoe Lake would be worth but very little, if anything?

Mr. Anderson: why, you couldn't use it for any purpose except to fish on.

Mr. Raker: And they get no revenue out of that?

Mr. Anderson: Not a bit.

Mr. Raker: But if it were drained, it would be worth from \$100 to \$500 an acre?

Mr. Anderson: It is probably very rich farmland, and all the farm land in that vicinity is very valuable.

Mr. Johnson: How large is that lake?

Mr. Anderson: well, I don't know-- about a thousand acres of land owned by those gentlemen is either under it or under the water that stands around it. But I expect it is larger than that. It is a large lake, three or four miles long, I believe.

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Mr. Raker: According to your statement there, they went up and drained land, fixed the creek, upon land outside of the district?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Which added very materially to the ^{value of the} holdings of these two members-- or one of the members and the Attorney of the Levee District-- drainage district?

Mr. Anderson: I believe that land outside owned by the firm of Canavan and Tarlton--

Mr. Cooper (Interposing:) Now that missed my attention right there. Do you say that this Levee Board used the funds raised by the taxation of a drainage district to do work outside of the district?

Mr. Anderson: That is what my story says. I don't remember the details of it, but I know it is all right.

Mr. Cooper: You remember the facts?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And that would directly benefit lands

owned by them-- by members of the board?

Mr. Anderson: If I remember correctly, the canal was built through a large tract of land owned by the firm of Canavan & Tarlton .

Mr. Cooper: Now before they drained that lake, how much land did Mr. Tarlton buy?

Mr. Anderson: Tarlton didn't have so much. Jerre Sullivan it looks like got the most of it. There were 140 acres of mingled land and water owned by Tarlton; and 824 acres by Jerre Sullivan, corporation counsel of the city of East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson: Is that the man on the Committee of 100?

Mr. Anderson: No, I don't think so. This is Jerre Sullivan.

Mr. Cooper: He is city counsel?

Mr. Anderson: Corporation counsellor of the city.

Mr. Raker: This is the same city that Tarlton and Canavan have the handling of, with the Mayor?

Mr. Anderson: Sure; the same city and the same Jerre. Jerre helped them handle it, I think. I think Jerre is the brains of the combination. There is a lot of brains exhibited there, and I don't know who else would have them in that bunch (laughter).

Mr. Raker: well, while Jerre is handling it, he is making something out of it, too?

Mr. Anderson: Well, he is noted as a gentleman who is well paid for his services; he is a very able attor-

ney; one of the very best in this part of the country, and he exhibited that when he and Schaumleffel together acquitted Gerold and Lambert and all those fellows indicted for stealing all the city's money. That was one of the biggest cases he ever won. He got away with it in fine shape. He was their chief attorney. He was Gerold's attorney when Gerold was tried by himself; and then he was attorney for Gerold when the whole bunch of them were tried for conspiracy. Schaumleffel was the other attorney.

Mr. Cooper: The present State's Attorney?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. Shortly after that--

Mr. Cooper (Interposing:) Wait a moment. Do you say that Schaumleffel was on the defense in those cases?

Mr. Anderson: Yes; he wasn't State's attorney then.

Mr. Cooper: well, no, but he is State's Attorney now. Does that account for the reason there is no prosecution or anything done?

Mr. Anderson: Well, I think so. Now there is a combination of things that accounts for that.

Mr. Cooper: That isn't any combination; that is just a straight case of a man being on both sides of one thing.

Mr. Anderson: well, I don't think they are on both sides of one side of anything, and that is their own side. Shortly after these men were all acquitted for robbing the city of about \$150,000--

Mr. Cooper (Interposing:) How much money was lost there?

Mr. Anderson: I think in the neighborhood of \$150,-
000.

Mr. Cooper: How much was lost of the school fund?

Mr. Anderson: \$44,000, I believe-- \$41,000.

Mr. Cooper: That is pretty near \$200,000?

Mr. Anderson: Yes. The amount lost was \$37,000
plus \$4400.

Mr. Cooper: About \$42,000?

Mr. Anderson: \$41,400.

Mr. Cooper: That is in the school district?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Outside of the city?

Mr. Anderson: No, sir; not outside of the city.

Part of it is outside of the city. The largest part of the
city is in that school district.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know of any other change left
on the counter in these transactions? (laughter)

Mr. Anderson: Well, there is an old story around
here that after Alexander Flannigan was city treasurer one
time, several years afterwards, when the statute of limita-
tions had expired, somebody remarked to him that the only
thing left in the treasury when he went out was a postage
stamp; and he said he'd be damned if he knew it was there
(laughter). I don't know if that was true or not.

Mr. Raker: Is that the same Alexander, the mob
attorney?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And who hasn't been indicted?

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Mr. Anderson: Oh, ho. If you want to know the reason why Alexander isn't criticised by some of these other lawyers, I'll tell you the reason: They are afraid of him. Alexander is just about as smart as any of them, and he has about as much on most of them as they have on him: That's the reason they don't take after him, because he would tell a whole lot of things, I think (laughter). He knows most everything going on.

Mr. Johnson: Under what circumstances would he tell?

Mr. Anderson: Well, in that position known as "State's evidence", he might tell.

Mr. Raker: Well, as long as he can run the whole thing, he isn't liable to tell much, is he?

Mr. Anderson: I don't think so. He knows he has them all bluffed.

Mr. Raker: He not only has the lawyers, but he has the constables?

Mr. Anderson: The constables work for him.

Mr. Raker: He has the justices?

Mr. Anderson: Yes. His office is in the rear of Justice Clark's temple of justice. They occupy the same floor.

Mr. Raker: Do they use that same desk?

Mr. Johnson: Is that what they call the "Kangaroo Court"?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir; sometimes it is referred to in that way.

Mr. Cooper: You say Flannigan is back of Clark's office?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, there is just a door between them, a partition.

Mr. Cooper: Do they both use the Marie Hall desk?

Mr. Anderson: Well, no; I think the Judge has a desk of his own.

Mr. Cooper: Is there a door between their offices?

Mr. Anderson: Yes; I think Flannigan uses the Judge's telephone. I don't think he has any telephone.

Mr. Cooper: And this is the same judge, now, that turned these 89 or 90 rioters loose that were taken down to jail?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Under the direction, of course, as we have been told, of the prosecuting attorney?

Mr. Anderson: Why, I was told the other day by a man who was chief deputy sheriff a few months ago that Schaumleffel himself was arrested on the street the day of the riot, drunk, and taken into the police station, because he was going up and down the streets inciting the mob. Some friend got hold of him and took him to the station and held him there till he sobered up.

Mr. Cooper: Who told you that?

Mr. Anderson: A man who was deputy sheriff until not long ago.

Mr. Johnson: what is his name?

Mr. Anderson: Stewart Campbell; a man in whose word I have a great deal of confidence. I think he was telling the truth.

Mr. Johnson: And that Schaumleffel was taken to the station?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: Can you give the name of anybody who saw him at the station?

Mr. Anderson: No, sir; that is all I know about it. He just said he understood that was the fact.

Mr. Johnson: He heard Flannigan's speech? Or do you know?

Mr. Anderson: No, I don't think he did.

You asked me something about the speech made at the City Council. At the meeting of the City Council several weeks ago, the City Council passed a resolution violently criticising the Attorney General's office for indicting-- causing the indictment-- of Mayor Vollman and his secretary. I don't remember the language, but it was very strong, and that was passed.

Mr. Raker: This is the City Council of East St. Louis-- their official act?

Mr. Anderson: While they were still in session Mr. Sullivan made a speech, a very vigorous speech, in which he denounced the Attorney General; said that he wanted to be United States Senator, and perhaps he was taking this method of going about it. He said that there had been a

demand by somebody around here to get the "higher-ups", and as a result of that, this Grand Jury of German farmers up here had been caused to indict Mollman and his secretary. He ridiculed the Assistant Attorney General Middlekauff-- he didn't name him, but described him so that everybody knew what he was talking about. He said that he believed that Mr. Middlekauff wrote the report of the Grand Jury without consulting the body of the Grand Jury in doing it, and said that it was done for political purposes, so the Attorney General or his assistants could make political capital out of it. It was a very well attended meeting. If I remember, Tarlton was in the front row, and I think Mr. Kelly was there. Most all the city employes were there.

Mr. Raker: That is the City Comptroller?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, I believe he was there. Most all of those gentlemen who form that coterie were there, and cheered loudly.

Mr. Raker: Mr. Kelly was on the stand here.

Mr. Anderson: Mr. Kelly is the Comptroller. Mr. Kelly is the bosom friend of Tarlton and McCracken. They kind of hang together. I think he is the best one of the lot, though (laughter).

Mr. Raker: Go on and explain this meeting that I asked you to get the data on.

Mr. Anderson: It was a very vigorous speech. I don't remember a great deal of the language, but it was all directed toward the Attorney General, particularly Mr. Middlekauff. Mr. Sullivan is a most able speaker, and

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very bright, and he ridiculed Mr. Middlekauff very effectively. It is said that he pointed out his physical characteristics, one of which is a drooping lip, and he marked that and mimicked it and made a great deal of fun of it, and said that Maurice Shearn, the Mayor's Secretary, was charged with running up and down the street, shouting and cursing in a tumultuous manner and throwing rocks. That made the crowd laugh a great deal.

Mr. Raker: Now this Mr. Kelly was there and participated?

Mr. Anderson: I believe so.

Mr. Raker: And Mr. Tarlton?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, I know he was there.

Mr. Raker: Was Canavan there?

Mr. Anderson: I think so.

Mr. Raker: And Mayor Vollman?

Mr. Anderson: Oh yes, the Mayor.

Mr. Raker: And the Council?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Raker: They were there passing a public resolution; hearing arguments of the City Attorney-- Corporation Counsel?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Criticising, condemning, and making light and making fun of the prosecution and of the personal characteristics of the State's Attorney that was here trying to do his duty?

Mr. Anderson: Not only that, but he denounced the

Grand Jury itself.

Mr. Raker: And also the Attorney General, in addition to the assistant?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And he was attacking the Grand Jury?

Mr. Anderson: And the law which makes it possible for a grand jury to operate as it does.

Mr. Raker: He was criticising that?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, very vigorously.

In reference to the matter of the slot machines, I remember the day that those machines were brought in. That was before I was barred out of the police station. I counted them, and my recollection is that there were 83.

Mr. Raker: Slot machines that had been confiscated?

Mr. Anderson: Confiscated from a store-house where they were, and put in the basement of the police station, and kept locked up there. I heard during the long period in which I wasn't allowed to go in there that a number of those slot machines had been taken out of there at night and taken down to Falling Spring and put in a roadhouse, which was said to be operated by Hunter Keith, who formerly was business agent of the Bartenders' Association, and who ran the place over here referred to as the "Bucket of Blood." After that was closed up he started a roadhouse at Falling Spring, and it was said a lot of these machines were taken down there. Then the riot had jarred loose the ban of the police station on me, one of the first things I did was to go down and count those slot machines. I think there

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were 68 left. That is my recollection.

Mr. Cooper: Did you count them?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir, I counted them. There were 68 machines and pieces of machines. Some of them were badly damaged, and I counted each piece as a whole one, so there wouldn't be any question about it. There were only about fifty that looked in a fair state of preservation. I don't know what became of them.

In the same connection, with Mr. Sullivan, it occurred to me shortly after Mayor Kollman was elected, there was a large number of complaints made by Mr. Sullivan before the State Public Utilities Commission, asking for a reduction of rates generally from the public service corporation here, and also an application to force the two telephone systems to interchange service.

Mr. Raker: In East St. Louis?

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Raker: Public Service Corporations?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. I have never heard any more of that. That has been almost three years ago since that was done. It has been buried ever since then. Just previous to that there had been considerable agitation in connection with the Gas Company. It was reported that the Gas Company contemplated putting natural gas into the mains here, and it was shown that a company formed to mine natural gas some distance north of here was composed of men who were connected with the gas company here. One of them I remember was Mr.

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Thomas E. Gillespie, who is attorney for the Gas Company and also attorney for the Levee Board. An alderman here had made considerable rumpus about that, but he went out of office later, and that has died completely down. My own personal opinion is that there is natural gas in the mains of this city now. It was shown at that time that the cost of natural gas being piped to this city would be about one-third, I believe, of the price that was being paid at that time.

Mr. Johnson: What is the price for gas here now?

Mr. Anderson: I have it here. I would like to read a reference to that:

"Councilman S. J. Fowler, of East St. Louis, last night denounced the apathy of his fellow members of the Council in connection with his efforts to have the gas rates reduced. Fowler said the attorney for the Gas Company had told the Councilmen at a secret caucus last December that it would cost ^{gas} the company ten thousand dollars to fight the proposed reduction before the Illinois Utilities Commission, and that the company would make the consumers of gas pay back every cent of that cost. Some of these Councilmen seemed to fear that this threat will be carried out if they do anything, Fowler said. Fowler read the report of the special committee of the Council appointed last September to investigate rates and service conditions of the St. Clair County Gas & Electric Company. He said that the report had been brought in December 13 last and had been killed in secret caucus. 'I can't get any support from you

Councilmen, it seems, but I'm going to make this report public and see if the people won't back me up', Councilman Fowler said. The other Councilmen remained silent. The report said that the committee found gas rates to be excessive, exorbitant, unreasonable, unjustified, and that the company was paying a profit amounting to 40 per cent on its actual investment. We find that the company today pays taxes on personal and real valuation of less than \$500,000; while they earn dividends on three million dollars' worth of capital stock in East St. Louis, and pay interest on a bonded indebtedness of \$2,500,000. Other cities not nearly so well situated for the manufacture of gas sell it for 65 to 70 cents per 1000, for which East St. Louis pays one dollar, the same as Belleville, which purchases gas from the same company after it has been piped 14 miles from East St. Louis."

That didn't contain what I thought it did. But Mr. Fowler made public before the Council down there the fact that a company was formed up here where natural gas was being mined, and that one of the incorporators of that company was Thomas R. Gillespie, who is the corporation attorney for the Gas Company and also the corporation attorney for the Levee Board; and every time Mr. Fowler tried to get into that thing he was rebuffed. He never did get any place, and finally he went out of office and the whole thing was buried and never has been heard of since.

Now at that time, if I remember correctly, pipes were being laid towards East St. Louis to put natural gas

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into the rains here, gas which would have sold at the most at 30 cents a thousand cubic feet, whereas it is now selling for a dollar.

Mr. Johnson: 30 cents, the figure you have just named, is the price in Kentucky.

Mr. Anderson: Is that for natural gas?

Mr. Johnson: For mixed, I think.

Mr. Anderson: It is a dollar here, and Fowler showed it could be sold here for 15 cents, the natural gas that they were piping towards this town, and Fowler went out of office and the rest of us who tried to find out anything were never able to do so, and it has been buried ever since, and I say in my opinion the people here are burning natural gas and paying one dollar for it and don't know it.

Mr. Cooper: You said Mr. Gillespie was attorney for the local gas company?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And also attorney for the Levee Board?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, sir. Also attorney for the Illinois State Bank, of which his brother is president.

Mr. Baker: Have you any other statement, or does that conclude the statement you wanted to give?

Mr. Anderson: Nothing more in particular. Reverend Mr. Allison's story about how he was threatened reminded me-- I suppose all of us who did anything in connection with opposing vice here were threatened with death. I know I was any number of times.

While this Cahokia Athletic Association was running

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down here, I knew a fellow who worked there, and he was friendly to me, and he would come to me every two or three days and say "If you don't lay off of that place, those fellows are going to get you." They always told someone that they knew to be a friend of mine that they would kill me or get me if I didn't stop. I didn't have the religious consolation that Mr. Allison did, so I told them to go to Hell. Here are two stories which were printed while that thing was going on, and this is the card to which he referred-- the ones that were mailed out to various young men in town. This is a copy of it. It was brought to me by a man who said that one had been sent to his son. He said that his son previously had frequented gambling houses, but since they had been cleaned up here he had him broke of it. He had a good job and was doing well, but the father was afraid it was going to ru'n him if they got him back there. This is the card they sent him:

"Cahokia Athletic Association,

East St. Louis, Illinois.

East St. Louis, 7-26, 1916."

I suppose that is July 26th:

"The privilege of the clubhouse are hereby extended to Mr. _____, for a period of two weeks at the request of Mr. A. C. Fritz ("Mule")."

This gentleran's nickname is "Mule-pole". "(Signed) Edward J. Moser. Clubhouse, 327-A, Vissouri Avenue."

~~That was printed~~ That was printed, and then previous to that I printed this other story here in which I went to

every official in the city that had anything to do with it, beginning with the Mayor and going down to the policemen on the beat, and asked them why they didn't stop that, and they juggled and shifted it between them some way, so that I never could find out why it wasn't stopped. The next clipping I have in my scrap-book is "Mayor Wellman attacks reporter in fit of anger."

Mr. Cooper: He attacked you for showing up vice in this city, right at his very door?

Mr. Anderson: I think so. Now to go back, when Schaumleffel was a candidate in the primaries he was opposed by Mr. John L. Flannigan; and while that campaign was going on-- it was very bitter-- they were both republicans-- Schaumleffel was arrested in a hotel over the river with a woman, and a charge of sodomy, I think, was placed against him, under conditions that savored very much of a frame-up. I believe the evidence was obtained by a private detective agency. Well, he was, I think, bound over on that, and the reaction from it was so great-- the people of the County were convinced that it was a frame-up-- there wasn't any question in anybody's mind but what it was-- that Schaumleffel was elected overwhelmingly-- that is, he was nominated overwhelmingly. Then, so the best informed persons around here believe, the democratic candidates for the Levee Board made a deal with Schaumleffel whereby they were to support each other, the Tarlton bunch and the Schaumleffel bunch, and that was so strikingly borne out by the figures that it almost constituted positive proof. Schaum-

leffel was elected overwhelmingly and ran high in the same precincts where the Levee Board ran high. Charles webb, who was the democratic candidate on the same ticket with the democratic Levee Board, was beaten by a tremendous vote, and Charlie Webb was the State's Attorney who had prosecuted the man who robbed the city, whom Jerre gullivan and Schaumleffel defended. The Levee Board went over easy, and so did Schaumleffel. Then afterwards of course they made arrangements whereby the city and the Levee Board were all the same, and they would let things go in the city while gschaumleffel was to let them go in the county, and they worked very well.

Mr. Raker: They are working well right along?

Mr. Anderson: Still working fine, I think.

Mr. Raker: well, that covers the main questions asked. I think that is all I want to ask you.

Mr. Johnson: Will Mr. Coley please come to the stand?

STATEMENT OF W. L. COLEY, 3242 Linden Avenue,

East St. Louis, Illinois.

(The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.)

Mr. Johnson: Please give the stenographer your name and residence.

Mr. Coley: W. L. Coley, 3242 Linden Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois; Attorney-at-Law.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Coley, have you knowledge or information concerning the various corporations represented

by Judge Messick's son before the board of review, which reduced the assessments of a great number of corporations here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Coley: My information is second-hand. That memorandum was furnished me by John B. Altrogg, publisher of a newspaper here. It was left on my desk yesterday with a request that I turn it in to this Committee (referring to paper).

Mr. Johnson: And what do these memorandums say regarding the subject about which I have just asked you?

Mr. Coley: That Judge Messick appointed the Board of Review. The fact is, Judge Messick appoints two members of the Board of Review.

Mr. Johnson: How many members are there?

Mr. Coley: Three. The other member is the chairman of the board of supervisors of the county, and by virtue of that office he is chairman of the board of review.

Mr. Johnson: Judge Messick appoints two of the three?

Mr. Coley: Judge Messick appoints two of the three of this board. Before this board of review Joe Messick, Jr., represented the Water Company, the Gas Company, the Light Company, and fourteen railroads, asking for tax reductions. Also that Judge Messick appoints the board of election commissioners, which is true, and that the Judge's son, Joe, the same Joe who was appointed by that board of election commissioners clerk at \$100 a month--no duties, as I understand it--

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Mr. Johnson (Interposing:) How old is Joe?

Mr. Coley: I think Joe is about 28 or 30 years old-- a young man, the only son of Judge Messick.

Mr. Johnson: Have you any other knowledge or information that would be of value to the Committee in conducting this investigation?

Mr. Coley: Well, I know a good deal about several of the things that Reverend Allison testified to. I was associated with him in a great many of the things that he testified about.

Mr. Johnson: Would it be practically a repetition of what he has testified to?

Mr. Coley: Yes, sir; so far as I was connected with him with it. Everything he said is substantially the fact about it.

Mr. Johnson: You may be excused. The Committee stands adjourned until ~~xxxxx~~ Monday morning at 10 o'clock a.m.

(Whereupon, at 5:55 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m., Monday, November 12, 1917.)
