

BOX

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FOLDER

24

City Advertising-Charges  
against William A. Willis

1910



CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

Jan. 25, 1910.

Sir:

1. I am informed that after the board of city record had in a large number of cases, namely, those in the list hereto annexed, designated by resolutions particular newspapers to publish notices from time to time, you unlawfully changed such designations without the direction or authority of the said board, by crossing out the names of certain newspapers so designated in and by the said resolutions and inserting others in their stead, all as enumerated or shown in the said annexed list.

2. I am also informed that you received from the proprietors of the newspapers so unlawfully substituted by you a percentage of the money paid to them by the city for such advertisements.

I call upon you to appear before me in the Mayor's office at 10 o'clock A.M. on January 27th to make any explanation thereof you may see



(2)

fit, and to show why you should not be removed  
from your position of executive secretary to the  
Mayor therefor.

*W. J. Gay*  
Mayor.

William A. Willis, Esq.,

Executive Secretary to the Mayor.



*City of New York.*  
*Law Department,*  
*Office of the Corporation Counsel.*

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*New York,* January 25, 1910.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

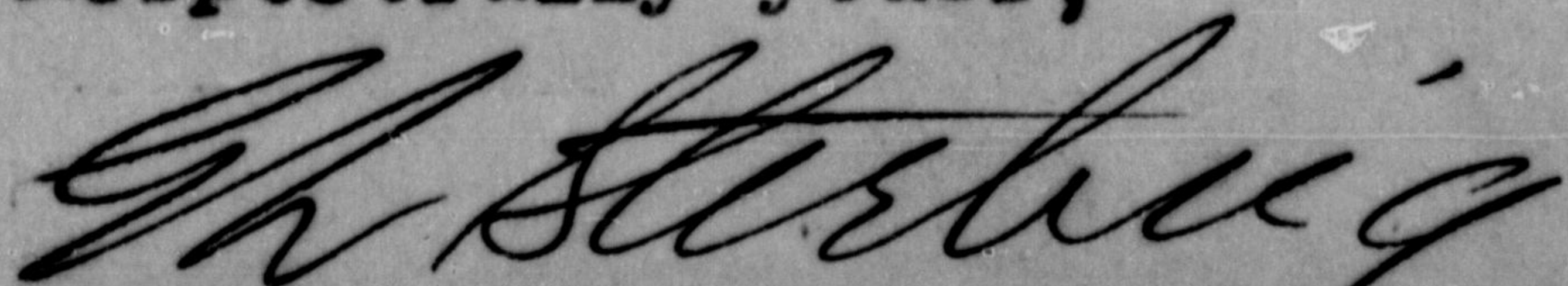
M a y o r .

S i r :-

During the entire time in which I have acted as the Corporation Counsel to sign designations of newspapers as a member of the Board of City Record, I never authorized or directed Mr. William A. Willis, of the Mayor's Office, or any one else, to change the typewritten designations of newspapers for advertising, nor have I personally exercised any discretion as to such designations, but have merely carried out the wishes of the Mayor and Comptroller in routine matters to facilitate the transacting of business.

I beg to inform you that I never knew that any typewritten designations were changed until about a year ago, when I was informed that certain changes had been made after I had signed the typewritten designations. I at once, through Mr. Crowell, called the Mayor's attention to what I considered an improper practice, and it was then decided that the Mayor and Comptroller should first sign the designations. So far as I am aware, no such change has been made since. Every designation of the sort that I have signed at any time has been presented to me as desired by the Mayor.

Respectfully yours,



Assistant Corporation Counsel.



# H. A. Metz & Co.

*Incorporated 1903.*

BOSTON, MASS.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
CHARLOTTE, N.C.  
ATLANTA, GA.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
NEWARK, N.J.  
MONTREAL, CANADA.  
TORONTO, CANADA.  
HAMBURG, GERMANY.

*Aniline & Alizarine Colors, Dyestuffs & Chemicals,*

*122 Hudson St. 39-47 No. Moore St. & 34 Beach St.*

CABLE ADDRESS HAMETZ NEW YORK.  
A.B.C. CODE 5TH EDITION USED.

*New York,* January 26th, 1910.  
P.O. BOX 753.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
City Hall,  
New York.

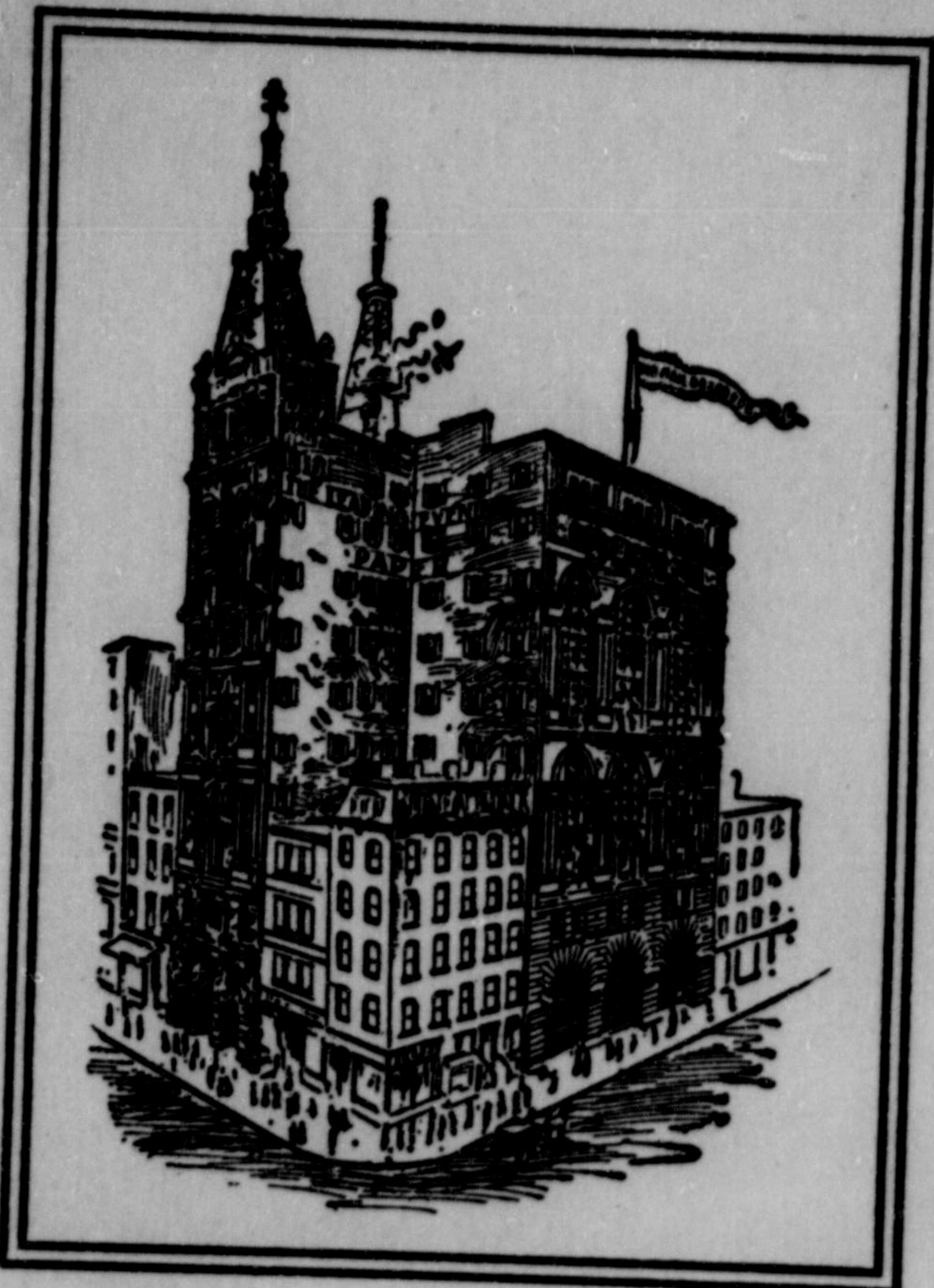
My Dear Mr. Mayor:--

In response to your request I beg to state that the corrections made in the authorizations of the Board of City Records referred to in the investigation of the Cassidy Commission, in which various papers were substituted for those approved by the Board, such changes and such substitutions as were shown me, were made after I had signed the authorizations, and without my knowledge, and I knew nothing about them until they were shown me at the hearing.

Yours very truly,

*H. A. Metz*





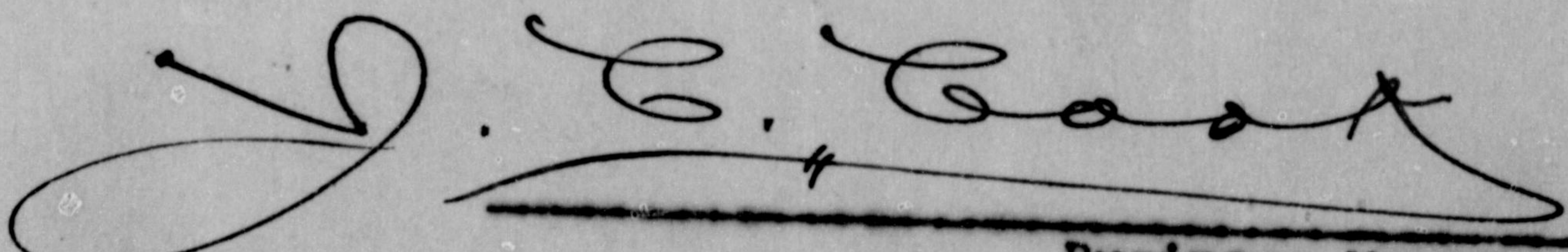
# THE EVENING MAIL

BROADWAY AND FULTON STREET

HENRY L. STODDARD  
EDITOR

NEW YORK January 26, 1910.

I hereby certify that at no time during the past four years, or prior to that time, Mr. W. A. Willis, or anyone representing him, or alleging to represent him, has collected from this office or attempted to collect from this office, any monies in connection with city advertising, or any other matter, directly or indirectly.

  
Business Manager.



STATE OF NEW YORK,  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK,

)  
)  
) ss:  
)  
)

WILLIAM KENNEL, being duly sworn, deposes  
and says:

That he is a Lieutenant of Police assigned  
to the Mayor's office; that on January 27, 1910, at  
6:10 P. M., deponent handed to Mr. William A. Willis,  
lately attached to the Mayor's office, a copy of the  
certificate filed by the Mayor, ordering the removal  
of said William A. Willis, together with a letter  
transmitting said certificate to Mr. Willis.

Sworn to before me this  
27th day of January, 1910.

*William Kennel*

*James T. Curtin*  
*Comd'g Deas*  
*N.Y.C.*



[July 1910]  
[On Newspaper Advertising]

THE MAYOR. Q. . . . Now what else?

Mr. Willis. A. As to Charge 2. I enter a general denial. I offer my own testimony for the purpose.

Q. You say then that no newspaper or newspaper proprietor or person connected with a newspaper or agent of a newspaper or other person gave you any percentage of the moneys paid to the papers for these advertisements, or any part of it or any compensation of any kind for it. Do you say that?

A. Certainly. The newspapers substituted by this method of changing designations? I am sticking right to these charges at present.

Q. I want to know whether you deny that any newspapers that were publishing advertisements for the city or any agent concerned in these or any person at all paid you money on account of these advertisements, or for the getting of it in any case?

A. I do. Certainly. Paid me money? I should say they did not. For getting advertisements.

Q. Or checks?

(No answer)

Q. Why do you hesitate?

A. I am trying to think. I have a great many friends in the newspaper business. I may have had some transactions with them some time or other. - - -

Q. You have hesitated over a minute already. Why do you hesitate?

A. My answer is that I have had no money or check from anybody mentioned in this charge No. 2 representing any newspaper mentioned in charge No. 2 as having been substituted, and I answer further that I have never had on account of advertising any moneys from any newspaper, or any agent of any newspaper.

Q. Why did you hesitate all this time to say that?



A. I was running over in my mind one personal transaction of mine which was closed up over two years ago. I think it was two years ago.

Q. Now, anything further?

A. I am charged here with receiving, on information, a percentage of money paid to these papers for the substitution - the papers mentioned there are the Herald, the Daily News, the Tribune, the Tammany Times, Evening Mail, Police Chronicle. Taking them in order - Mr. Flaherty of the Herald offers his testimony at any time in any manner of the fact, Mr. Hills of the Tribune, Mr. Wiley of the Times, and I have here from Mr. Cook the business manager of the Evening Mail an affidavit on the matter, and I expected that Mr. Dreyfus, of the Police Chronicle, was to be here, and I expect Mr. Feigel of the Tammany Times would be here this morning, and they may be here outside now, and I offer them as witnesses.

Q. You want to leave that, do you ?

A. Oh this, yes. The Evening Mail. The only one I had time to get an affidavit from. It is downtown here.

(The affidavit, which was submitted, reads as follows:

"New York, January 26, 1910.  
"I hereby certify that at no time during the past four years, or prior to that time, Mr. W. A. Willis, or anyone representing him, or alleging to represent him, has collected from this office, or attempted to collect from this office, any moneys in connection with city advertising, or any other matter, directly or indirectly.

J.C.Cook, Business Manager."  
(Evening Mail)

Q. What else now?

A. That appears to be everything. Does your Honor care to hear my witnesses?

Q. I don't see any witnesses here. I am not pleading here. I see no witnesses present.

A. The witnesses are probably waiting without. Mr. Feigel --.



Q. I don't expect for one moment that the business manager of these papers paid any money. I think I know pretty well who paid it.

A. That is jumping at a conclusion that I am not telling the truth.

Q. Anything further in this hearing?

A. No, excepting a repetition of the denial that I never received a cent at any time.

By Mr. Murphy. Will you give Mr. Willis an opportunity to see if the witnesses are here?

THE MAYOR. I am not denying you any opportunity. I do not have to have witnesses here but I am not denying you anything at all.

By Mr. Willis (returning) Mr. Feigel or Mr. Dreyfus is not here. Mr. Feigel sent word over he would be very glad to submit an affidavit.

THE MAYOR. That's all.

Hearing closed.



Changes made on Designations of Newspapers  
for Advertising and initialed "W.A.W.".

Date of Designation	Substitutions.			
<u>1907</u>				
June 20	"New York Herald"	for	"The Sun"	
" 20	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 28	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
July 5	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
July 8	"Daily News"	"	"The Sun"	
" 10	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 10	"Daily News"	"	"The Sun"	
" 13	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 17	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 24	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 25	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
Aug. 5	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 7	("Daily News"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("New York Tribune"	"	"The World"	)
" 8	("Daily News"	"	"The World"	)
	("New York Tribune"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("New York Herald"	"	"The Journal"	)
" 9	("New York Herald"	"	"The Journal"	)
	("New York Tribune"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("Daily News"	"	"The World"	)
" 16	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 20	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 21	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 21	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
Sept. 9	("New York Tribune"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("Tammany Times"	"	"The World"	)
	("New York Herald"	"	"N.Y. American"	)
" 11	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 25	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 25	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 25	("New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("New York Tribune"	"	"The World"	)
	("Tammany Times"	"	"N.Y. American"	)
" 27	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 27	"New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	
" 28	("New York Herald"	"	"The Sun"	)
	("New York Tribune"	"	"The World"	)
	( "N.Y. American" crossed out -			)
	( no newspaper substituted.			)



Date of  
Designation.

Substitutions.

1907

Sept.	30	( "New York Herald" for "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
Oct.	3	"New York Herald" for "The Sun"
"	3	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	3	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	4	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	8	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	25	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	25	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	25	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	30	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	31	"New York Herald" for "The Sun"
"	31	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
Nov.	1	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	6	( "New York Herald" for "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	6	( "New York Herald" for "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	12	"New York Herald" for "The Sun"
"	13	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	13	"New York Herald" for "The Sun"
"	18	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	20	"New York Tribune" for "The Sun"
"	21	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	22	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	22	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	29	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"



Date of  
Designation.

Substitutions.

1907

Nov.	29	( "New York Herald" for "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	29	( "New York Herald" for "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "N.Y. American" crossed out - ) ( no newspaper substituted. )
"	29	"New York Times" for "The World"
"	29	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
Dec.	6	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	6	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	6	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	10	( "New York Times" " "N.Y. Press" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "Evening Mail" " "Eve. World" )
"	12	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	12	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	20	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "Police Chronicle" " "N.Y. American" )
"	21	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "Police Chronicle" " "N.Y. American" )
"	24	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
"	30	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"

1908.

Jan.	8	( "New York Herald" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "Police Chronicle" " "N.Y. American" )
"	9	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	15	( "Police Chronicle" " "The Sun" ) ( "New York Tribune" " "The World" ) ( "Tammany Times" " "Eve. World" ) ( "N.Y. Press" and "Eve. Sun" crossed out - ) ( no newspapers substituted. )
"	17	"Police Chronicle" for "The Sun"
"	17	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	18	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	18	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	22	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
"	22	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"



Date of  
Designation.

Substitutions.

1908

Date of Designation.	Substitutions.
Feb. 21	("Police Chronicle" for "The Sun" ) ("New York Tribune" " " "The World")
" 24	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 24	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 25	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 25	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 27	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 27	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 27	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 27	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 29	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
March 4	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 5	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 6	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 6	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 6	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 12	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 13	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 19	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 19	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 19	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 20	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 25	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 26	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 26	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 26	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 27	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
April 1	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 1	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 4	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 7	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 9	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 9	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 9	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 10	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 15	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 22	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 22	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 24	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 29	"New York Herald" " "The Sun"
" 30	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 30	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 30	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
May 1	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 1	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 1	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 7	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 8	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 8	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 12	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"
" 13	"Police Chronicle" " "The Sun"



Date of  
Designation.

Substitutions.

1908

May	16	"Police Chronicle"	for	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	21	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	21	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	22	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	22	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	28	("New York Herald" "New York Times")	"	("H.Y. American") "The World")
June	2	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	3	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	3	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	3	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	5	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	5	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	6	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	8	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	8	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	9	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	11	("Police Chronicle" "New York Tribune" { "H. Y. Press" crossed out - { no newspaper substituted.	"	"Eve. Sun" "Eve. World" )
"	12	"Police Chronicle"	for	"The Sun"
"	12	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	12	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	15	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	16	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	17	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	20	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	22	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	25	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	25	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	26	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	26	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	26	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
July	8	"New York Tribune"	"	"The Sun"
"	8	"New York Tribune"	"	"The Sun"
"	15	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	15	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	15	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
Aug.	5	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	5	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	10	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"



Date of  
Designation.

Substitutions.

1908

August	12	"Police Chronicle"	for	"The Sun"
"	14	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	26	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	26	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
Sept.	12	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	12	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	12	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"
"	19	("New York Times"	"	"The World" )
		("New York Herald"	"	"N.Y. American" )
"	28	("New York Times"	"	"The World" )
		("Police Chronicle"	"	"N.Y. American" )
"	30	"Police Chronicle"	"	"The Sun"