BOX
8
FOLDER
79
Curran Libel Suit
1912-1913

REPORT

-re-

BUREAU OF LICENSES -

Fruit Stand, 27th Street

and Sixth Avenue.

COMMISSIONERS OF ACCOUNTS
280 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

Dated Januaryn7, 1912.

11 3 08 5000—M

Curran Suit ✓

CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ACCOUNTS

280 BROADWAY

[redacted] Hedrick
COMMISSIONER

JEREMIAH T. MAHONEY
HARRY M. RICE
COMMISSIONERS

January 7, 1912.

SUBJECT: Bureau of Licenses.

HON. WILLIAM J. GAYNOR,

Mayor.

Sir:

Some time ago a statement was filed in this office to the effect that Salvatore La Rocca and Frank Petranduono, owners of a stand at University Place and Eighth Street had a conversation with Alderman Curran with reference to the application for a permit for the same, and that at said conversation something was said about money being paid for such permit. Various persons whose names were mentioned in the statement filed were notified to appear here and to give any information they possessed concerning this matter. The testimony taken was as follows:

PHILIP TYRONE: I live at 97 Johnson Street, Brooklyn. I know Salvatore La Rocca and Frank Petranduono. I have known them for about twelve years. In May of 1912 they obtained permit for a stand at University Place and Eighth Street. Before they got the permit La Rocca's

son-in-law, Frank Carrano asked me if I would not help to get such permit. I volunteered to help. University Place and Eighth Street is in Alderman Curran's district. I was informed that Petranduono was arrested for having a stand on the sidewalk without a license. The latter told me that he was being bothered by Alderman Curran. "He is always coming dow[illegible] I don't know what he wants".

> "Q Who was always coming down?
>
> A Curran. I said to him perhaps he wants some money. He said, 'well, I offered him $10 and he said he didn't want to accept the $10 because that would not be enough to buy a cigarette. What is $10'."

Curran, however, did not take the money that was offered to him. Frank Carrano, La Rocca's son-in-law, is an officer attached to the 162nd Precinct. He could tell more about the case than I know. I was afterwards told that the landlord of the house had obtained a license for Petranduono and La Rocca. Petranduono and La Rocca now have a license, but I understand they have that license only on condition that they will not sell cigars, soda water etc.

> "Q It appears that the landlady now has the license and they are operating under her license?
>
> A Yes, because they were afraid that if they sold soda, cigars and candy under their own license that Alderman Curran would come along and tear it up, so they got another license out under the landlady's name so they could sell soda water, cigars and candies.
>
> Q Were they not afraid he would tear up the landlady's license also?
>
> A They thought not".

* * * * *

"Q And I suppose it was told to you in such a way as to indicate that the Alderman felt $10 was too small an amount to offer and that a larger amount ought to be offered?

A That was how it struck me.

Q And that is the impression that you attempted to convey to the Mayor also when you spoke to him?

A Yes.

Q You wished the Mayor to believe that was the impression you had and you felt that was the truth?

A Yes.

Q And that was the impression therefore that you attempted to convey to the Mayor, that Curran would have liked to get more than the $10, for the $10 was not enough?

A That would be my opinion.

Q That would be your opinion and it is correct as I tell it?

A That would be my opinion when he said "what is $10".

Q That is what you felt and that is the impression you wished to convey to the mayor?

A Yes.

Q And that is why you spoke to the Mayor about it?

A Yes.

Q Was Curran present at any time when either La Rocca or Petranduono spoke to you about this talk to Curran?

A It was me and La Rocca at Frank Carrano's house. They lived in my election district."

FRANK PETRANDUONO: I am in partnership with Salvatore La Rocca in a stand at University Place and Eighth Street. We keep the basement store and the stand outside. In May, 1912, we found it very hard to get a license for the stand. I spoke to Mr. Tyrone about it. Mr. Tyrone offered to help.

"Q And he offered to help to get it?

A Yes.

Q And you finally got the license, did you not?

A Yes. First I went over to get the license off the Alderman at the 14th Street Club, and he said you can't have no license, you must sell fruit downstairs Then we went around to his friend in the same office and he asked him to tell the Alderman to give me the license. Then he said, you want a license; I said yes. He said, if you want a license, you can sell fruit only, not soda or candy, if you will promise me to sell only fruit. I said, yes, give it to me, we will see about it. They gave me the license and we had the fruit outside. After that we wanted to put a soda fountain in outside. We didn't want any trouble and my landlady went over to see another friend to get the right license to sell soda and fruit outside. We have two licenses.

Q Have you two licenses now?

A Yes, but they kept mine. This is the landlord's license. The Alderman told me "if you sell soda, I willcome over and tear the license".

My license was granted for one year beginning May 24, 1912. The license was for fruits and soda water, or both, within the stoop line at 31 East 8th Street. I saw Alderman Curran about it. I saw him when I went to City Hall to get an application Then I went to his club to see him. He came over to my store once. He signed his name to my application at the 14th Street club. He said "you can sell only fruit. We will be bad friends if you sell soda or candy and cigars. If you do, I will come down there and tear up the license" One day when he came to my stand he saw I had a showcase of candy outside. He said "you will have to put that inside". I said, couldn't we fix it - I will give you $10.

"Q Just recall what happened when you offered the $10? Did you say 'Alderman, I will let you have $10' you said that?

A Yes.

Q And then did he not say, why that would not buy a cigar for me?

A No, he didn't say that. He never asked me for no money. I promised I will give $10 to sell soda, candy and cigars. He said, you ought to be ashamed of yourself, to want to give me $10.

Q Did he say that was too small?

A He didn't say it was too small or big.

Q Suppose you had offered $50, would he have taken it?

A I can't say, he might have taken it sure.

Q But you thought the $10 was too small for the Alderman?

A That is what I thought, but I can't say it was small or big. He said, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Q You thought he meant you should have offered more to him than $10.?

A It might be.

Q That is what you felt, that you should have offered him more than $10, that $10 was too small?

A Yes.

Q That is the impression you got?

A Yes.

Q You thought then the Alderman was put out because you offered such a small sum?

A Yes.

Q And you should have offered him more?

A Yes.

Q Is that right?

A That is right."

Mrs. Elizabeth Hanley, my landlady, also obtained a license. Alderman Curran was anxious that we should not interfere with other people who were selling soda water and things like that. It was because I wanted to sell soda

water and other things besides fruit without being bothered by the Alderman that I offered $10 to Alderman Curran.

"Q You felt then that if you had offered more it would have been taken?

A I felt that way.

Q But you felt he wanted more?

A Yes."

FRANK A. CARRANO: I am a patrolman employed in the Police Department, and attached to the 162nd Precinct. Frank Petranduono is my cousin by marriage. I know Philip Tyrone and also Salvatore La Rocca. The latter is my father-in-law. La Rocca and Petranduono have a fruit stand at University Place and 8th Street. Petranduono told me that he went down to City Hall several times to get a license and that finally Alderman Curran signed his application. He also told me that some time after the license was granted, Alderman Curran one day coming through the street, saw the stand and stopped and complained about the way La Rocca and Petranduono were doing business.

"Q Do you recall hearing a conversation in which Petranduono told you he offered Curran $10 and Curran said that would not buy a cigar for him?

A He says that he took him downstairs in the basement and he offered him some money, and he would not take it. He said, what am I going to do with it. Probably if it was more.

Q Do you recall that Petranduono said why that would not be enough to buy a cigar?

A I don't recall his using those words.

Q Did Petranduono state sufficient to you to indicate that he meant to convey to you the impression that if he had offered Curran more than $10 he would have been satisfied?

A That is the way I felt.

Q And you thought that Curran objected to the amount that was being offered to him?

A That is the way I look at the matter.

Q That is the way you understood it?

A Yes.

Q That was the impression that was conveyed to you?

A Yes.

Q Did Petranduono say anything to you about the price of a cigar or anything like that?

A I don't recollect."

****

"Q But Petranduono did give you the impression that if he had offered a greater sum of money to Curran, Curran would have been satisfied?

A Naturally, sure, that is the way I take it myself. He would not hold them back three or four months on their license after they opened the place if it was not for some purpose".

Other information was filed with this office, particularly an affidavit of Maurice E. Sobel bearing upon the granting of permits to conduct stands in the aldermanic district represented by Mr. Curran. In the affidavit of Mr. Sobel, the latter states that while he was employed by the firm of Sobel & Brand, attorneys, at 320 Broadway, this firm was endeavoring to obtain a license for one Mascaladis, a Greek, license for a fruit stand at the southwest corner of 6th Avenue and 28th Street. That Mr. Brand sent Maurice Sobel to Alderman Curran at City Hall with reference to the license and that Alderman Curran demanded a sum of money as a condition of giving his consent to the application. Different witnesses were subpoenaed to testify concerning this matter. Their testimony is as follows:

CHARLES BRAND: I am a member of the law firm of Sobel & Brand, having offices at 320 Broadway. Maurice E. Sobel is a brother of Samuel Sobel, my partner. Maurice was formerly in the employ of the firm. I recall making an application for license for a fruit stand for a person named Mustakis, not Mascaladis. Mustakis wanted a permit for a stand at 27th Street and Sixth Avenue, in front of Blyn's shoe store. Acting as counsel for Mustakis I made an application to the Board of Aldermen. Subsequently I received a letter from Alderman Curran, stating that if Mustakis would call to see him at the 14th Street Republican Club he would talk the matter over with him. I requested Mustakis to see Curran and I gave him Alderman Curran's letter. This was in the early part of May, 1912. Mustakis had quite a conversation with Curran at the latter's club house. I don't recall if I sent Maurice E. Sobel to see Curran. If Maurice Sobel says I did I have no reason for doubting him.

"Q Did Mustakis any time say that any suggestion was made to him that he should pay money for the stand?

A That I couldn't recall. I believe he told me that probably money would get the license. I couldn't just recall what he told me. He is a Greek. He is not so very literate."

******

Q You have an impression that Mustakis said to you that somebody had spoken to him about money?

A I would not swear to it.

Q But you have an impression?

A Yes, I am inclined to believe that he mentioned something about money.

Q And that if he would pay money he could get the license?

A I think he so told me. He didn't tell me who or what, but I was under that impression".

I myself also spoke to Alderman Curran and asked him for the license for my clients. He put me off. Curran made no suggestion about money to me. Mustakis often told me he could get the license for money. I can't recall that Maurice Sobel told me that Alderman Curran said to him that he would not take less than $100. Mustakis never got the license or permit. It seems to me to be strange that he did not. Mustakis told me that when he saw Curran with the letter I had received from Curran, Curran took the letter:

"Q The letter was quite suggestive?

A It appeared to me so. Why should a man make an appointment at the club?

Q Particularly in asking an attorney to call?

A I didn't think it was worth my while.

Q And it was suggestive in that he probably said something in it that warranted you informing the conclusion that money would be put up?

A This is about the substance of it, that this matter was referred to Alderman Curran of that district, and if one of us called at the 14th Street Club, mentioning the time and day, he would see about it.

Q But you think it was quite a suggestive letter?

A That is about the substance of it; it was the place of appointment made that impression."

I thought it was indeed strange that a city official like an Alderman should make an appointment with a citizen to meet him at a political club. So far as I can recall Sobel never reported to me that Curran asked for money in connection with a permit for Mustakis.

PETER MUSTAKIS: At present I am employed as a salesman by the Siegel, Cooper Company. I made an application some time ago for a license for stand at 27th Street and Sixth Avenue. I employed Mr. Brand as my attorney in connection with this matter. I saw Alderman Curran through Mr. Brand. Mr. Brand, acting for me, wrote to the Board of Aldermen and he got a letter from Alderman Curran in reply. I then went to see Mr. Curran with that letter. The letter made an appointment at 14th Street, at the political club there.

"Q What did Mr. Curran say?

A He took me privately in the corner of the room and spoke to me. He saw the letter and he said what stand are you looking for. I said I am looking for the stand at 27th Street and 6th Avenue, on the southwest corner. He thought for a few moments and he said I have a man who has the stand opposite the corner you are looking for and I promised that fellow I wont rent that place to any one, and at this time I can't do anything for you. I said, Mr. Curran, I am willing to pay any expenses necessary for that stand, and at the same time he thought a few minutes, then he said I am sorry I can do nothing for you. If I have a mind to rent that stand to anybody I will let you know.

Q About what time of the year was it that you had this talk at Curran's club?

A I am not sure, but I think it was between April and May.

Q This was at the club house in 14th Street?

A Yes."

I told Alderman Curran where I wanted to locate the stand and that I was willing to pay the necessary expenses. He said he had promised some other fellow a license for the corner opposite the corner on which I wanted to locate, but that if he decided to change his mind he would let me know.

"A I told him I was willing to pay $50 or $100, something like that.

Q Did he intimate that was not enough?

A No.

Q He didn't say to you that you should not offer him any money though?

A No.

Q He didn't act as though he were insulted because you mentioned money to him?

A No.

Q Did he not act as if the amount you had offered him was too small?

A No.

Q But you offered the sum of $50 or $100?

A I told him I was willing to pay $50, any necessary expenses.

Q You said you would go as high as $100?

A Yes, $50, $75 or $100."

When I offered money to the Alderman he didn't say he would not take it.

"Q So you felt that if he were going to rent the stand to you later on he would take money from you, that is what you believed?

A Yes.

Q That is what his conduct led you to believe, that is a fact?

A Yes.

Q Didn't he mention some definite sum himself, he didn't say $50 or $100 or $150?

A No, he didn't say.

Q How much did you feel it would cost you to get that stand?

A I don't know.

Q From the way Curran acted, how much did you think you would have to pay for it?

A He didn't give me any idea how much I would have to give for it, because when I offered the money he didn't say anything about it. The only thing he said - somebody else was waiting for him - that he promised that fellow opposite that he would not rent it because it would hurt his business, but that if he rented that place he would let me know."

When I handed the letter to Alderman Curran, he tore it up and threw it away.

In addition to the foregoing attention is called to the fact that Mustakis is a well educated, well appearing Greek of the better class. He subsequently stated that he recollected that he had heard from some Greeks that the persons who eventually got the stand at the southwest corner of 27th Street and Sixth Avenue paid $500 to some one. This statement was made by him to G. G. Freer, Law Examiner, in this office. Mr. Freer has reported that he has discovered that a sum of money was paid by George Trajedis and two others to an American who procured the application and license for them. Examiner Freer further reports that Trajedis is still in the country and he hopes to locate him and obtain the entire story.

Pursuant to our directions Examiner Freer has been detailed to make a complete investigation of all the facts laid before us by Mustakis. He is now working on the matter and when his investigation is concluded and his report submitted the same will at once be submitted to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah T. Mahoney

Hamilton Pitts

Commissioners of Accounts.

JTM/MCB

April 24th, 1912. s

Dear Alderman Curran:

I have just read your report on the issue of Special Revenue Bonds by your board. I am exceedingly glad to see you take such an interest in your work. There are men in the Board of Aldermen who are fit for any city office, as I have often said, and this report of yours shows it.

Sincerely yours,

N. J. Gaynor

Mayor.

Henry H. Curran, Esq.,
Chairman Committee on Finance,
Board of Aldermen,
New York City.

COMMISSIONERS

LAWSON PURDY, PRESIDENT
CHAS. J. Mc CORMACK — DANIEL S. Mc ELROY
JOHN J. HALLERAN — EDWARD KAUFMANN
CHAS. T. WHITE — JUDSON G. WALL
C. ROCKLAND TYNG, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF
TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

TELEPHONE 5535 MAIN

January 15th 1913

My dear Mr Mayor:

I am trying my best to get that letter. In the meantime the enclosed may be of interest. It comes to me from a Political friend - (Democrat) who has not the slightest idea why I asked the question. The statement made to me from another source that the ald. acted as Secretary or Publicity agent for your opponent during the last Mayoralty Campaign should be capable of proof.

Very respectfully

Hon Wm J. Gaynor
Mayor

Judson G. Wall

Larkin G. Mead of Lawrence Park Bronxville is a partner

Henry H. Curran, 31 and 33 West 11th St., Correspondent, Office 63 Park Row, Room 1102; moved from 312 West 20th Street August, 1910. 1909 elected Alderman by the Board to succeed Alderman Johnson who died. In 1910 nominated by Republicans and endorsed by the Independence League, and was elected Ald erman. His friend, who secured his nomination, was Ezra Prentice, who acted at the direction of General Stewart L. Woodford, Ex-Ambassador to Spain. Frederick C. Tanner, Republican Leader of his Aldermanic District, is a lawyer employed in the office of the law firm of Woodward, Bovee and Butcher at No. 1 Madison Avenue. William R. Hearst and Herbert L. Parsons are his friends. Stewart L. Woodford, who controls Tanner, is the power behind Curran. Prentice and Parsons are not friends politically, Prentice being a Bull Moose and Parsons the Republican machine.

COMMISSIONERS
LAWSON PURDY, PRESIDENT
CHAS. J. Mc CORMACK — DANIEL S. Mc ELROY
JOHN J. HALLERAN — EDWARD KAUFMANN
CHAS. T. WHITE — JUDSON G. WALL
C. ROCKLAND TYNG, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF
TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TELEPHONE 5535 MAIN

Personal

January 21st, 1913.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

I went to Connecticut again Sunday to get the letter I wanted, but my friend said he had not found it. He will, I believe, call and see you, if you should invite him to do so, and show you the letter if he finds it. He will surely tell just what he told me and I would like to have you talk with him.

I expect to leave town to-morrow with my wife, who is in need of a change.

All applications for reduction of assessments have been passed upon, and everything is in splendid shape in this office.

Commissioner White will look after things here during ~~my~~ absence.

Very respectfully,

Judson G. Wall

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor,
City Hall, N. Y.

My friends name & address is -
Prof. J. Pease Norton Drawer 30. New Haven Conn.

CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

A Union of Citizens without regard to party, for the purpose of securing the honest and efficient government of the City of New York

OFFICERS

WM. JAY SCHIEFFELIN, ... *Chairman*
JULIUS HENRY COHEN
RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL
WILLIAM W. NILES
WILLIAM A. SHORTT . . . . *Vice Chairmen*
PERCIVAL KÜHNE. . . . . *Treasurer*
J. O. HAMMITT. . . . . *Secretary*

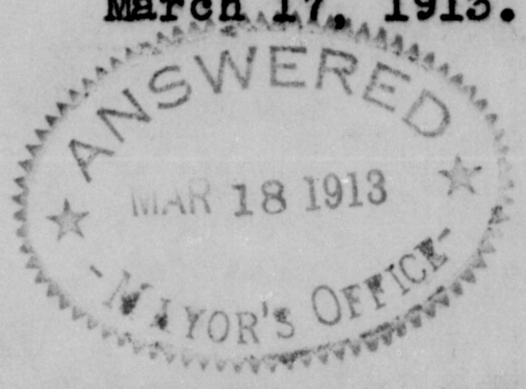
FINANCE COMMITTEE

FRANK L. BABBOTT
HENRY BATTERMAN
RICHARD S. CHILDS
ELGIN R. L. GOULD
HENRY HENTZ
PERCIVAL KÜHNE
ARTHUR C. LUDINGTON
EUGENE H. OUTERBRIDGE
WILLIAM JAY SCHIEFFELIN
ISAAC N. SELIGMAN

41 PARK ROW (OLD TIMES BUILDING)

TEL. CORTLANDT 5898-5899

March 17, 1913.



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

Dear Sir:-

We were informed by Alderman Henry H. Curran that the officials and employees of the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses or persons representing themselves as such have been engaged at the offices of the Bureau and elsewhere in obtaining evidence in your behalf in Mr. Curran's action against you for libel. We thereupon made an investigation of the facts and think it our duty to inform both you and Alderman Curran of the result.

In referring to this matter at all we are concerned only with the apparent abuse of official power and this letter must not be construed as expressing any opinion as to the merits of the pending libel suit. The facts according to our information are as follows:

Recently men having badges and claiming to be inspectors of the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses approached numerous licensed proprietors of street stands in the 26th Aldermanic District, represented by Alderman Curran, and took from the stand proprietors their licenses. They informed the people from whom these licenses were taken that if they desired them back they should appear at a certain time at the offices of the Mayor's

Bureau of Licenses, 57 Centre Street.

The proprietors of these street stands who had thus been temporarily deprived of their licenses, were received in rooms in the building occupied by the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses. One by one and in most cases after having been kept waiting for an hour or two, they were taken into the office of the Chief of the Bureau. There they were examined as to matters relating to the issues involved in the libel suit. Thereafter their licenses were returned to them. Present assisting in such examinations was Mr. Charles C. Lockwood, an attorney whose office is at 35 Nassau Street, who appears to be acting in preparing your case for trial. The nature of the examinations indicates that the only purpose was to secure evidence for use in the libel suit.

We have already brought the matter to the attention of Mr. James G. Wallace, Jr., the Chief of the Bureau of Licenses, and he has declined to give any explanation.

If our information is incomplete in any particular, we should be glad to be advised of any further evidence. Meanwhile, it is unnecessary to add that immediate action should be taken to stop such practices as above outlined. We deem it only proper to give you an opportunity to reply to this letter before taking any further action.

Very truly yours,

J. O. Hammitt

Secretary.

CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

A Union of Citizens without regard to party, for the purpose of securing the honest and efficient government of the City of New York

OFFICERS

WM. JAY SCHIEFFELIN, ... *Chairman*
JULIUS HENRY COHEN
RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL
WILLIAM W. NILES
WILLIAM A. SHORTT . . . . *Vice Chairmen*
PERCIVAL KÜHNE. . . . . *Treasurer*
J. O. HAMMITT. . . . . *Secretary*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FRANK L. BABBOTT — PERCIVAL KÜHNE
HENRY BATTERMAN — ARTHUR C. LUDINGTON
RICHARD S. CHILDS — EUGENE H. OUTERBRIDGE
ELGIN R. L. GOULD — WILLIAM JAY SCHIEFFELIN
HENRY HENTZ — ISAAC N. SELIGMAN

41 PARK ROW (OLD TIMES BUILDING)

TEL. CORTLANDT 5898-5899

March 20, 1913.

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

Sir:-

We have your letter of March 18th. You say you never heard of the matters mentioned in our letter of the 17th. But you have heard of them now, and you have ample means to verify their correctness. We suggest that you inquire of your own personal counsel and from other sources of information equally open to you. It should be easy for you to ascertain whether your representatives are or are not putting you in the position of abusing your official power in the promotion of your private affairs.

For your further information, we add that we have been informed:

That your counsel, Mr. Lockwood, accompanied by Alexander Frank, an examining inspector in the office of the Commissioners of Accounts, interviewed a Greek named Andrew X. Alexakis at 208 West 28th Street, last Friday evening, March 14th; that their discussion related to the Curran libel suit, Alexakis being approached with a view to his becoming a witness at the trial; that on the same occasion Alexakis was engaged by your personal counsel to act at the office of the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses on Monday, March 17th, as interpreter

in the examination of a stand keeper from Alderman Curran's district, for which he was to receive pay; that the examination itself was apparently intended to assist your counsel in preparing your case in Mr. Curran's libel suit against you; and that, in fact, the examination of the stand keeper on Monday at the office of the Bureau of Licenses was conducted, not by an official of the Bureau, but by your personal counsel.

A stenographic report of the interview of March 14th, made at the time, gives further details.

Yours truly,

CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

By- J. O. Hammitt

Secretary.

P.S. I note what you say about Driggs Avenue; but do not propose in this correspondence (which I am conducting for the Citizens Union and by direction of its Executive Committee) to be led into a discussion of any side issue personal to myself. I am ready to discuss the Driggs Avenue matter at any time and in any proper way, but must request that you make public any further communication you send me on that subject in order that I may hold you responsible for any statement you make.

J. O. Hammitt

March 26th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

The suggestion made to me by you and Judge Olcott, Counsel for Mr. Curran, that the suit brought against me by Alderman Curran should be discontinued meets with my approval. I would not in any case wish to withstand the joint advice of counsel. Much less do I wish to do so in this case, for now that the evidence of the trafficking in licenses for stands, and of the payment of money for such licenses, has been collected, there is no evidence that Mr. Curran personally participated in such graft or received any money therefrom. When I wrote my letter to Mr. Curran, of which he complains, I had much evidence which had been furnished to me by various departments and officials, some of it sworn to, that such trafficking and grafting was taking place throughout the city. When I described the method by which graft was secured in licensing these stands, namely, that a certificate of approval would be secured from the Alderman of the district by a go-between or wardheeler, who would hold it up and refuse to deliver it until he was paid for it, I had ample evidence

thereof before me, and there had accumulated before me evidence that certain persons were pursuing this system in Mr. Curran's aldermanic district. But as I have said there is no evidence that Mr. Curran ever participated in the payment or receipt of such moneys. And I am exceedingly glad to believe that he did not, and it must be remembered that I never directly said that he did.

And what pleases me now very much is that Mr. Curran will give me his powerful assistance in rooting out this form of graft all over the city. I shall be most glad to work with him to that end.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Gaynor,
Mayor.

Stephen C. Baldwin, Esq.,
190, Montague Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mar.27,1913.k

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

It is true that out of your long standing good will and friendship to me you came forward as a volunteer to help me in the libel cases, for which I feel very grateful to you. But I do not wish to have the matter rest in that way, but on the contrary I desire to send you a check so that you may pay expenses and also have something reasonable for yourself. If I do not do this the thing will always be on my mind. And of course I want our young friend Lockwood to be paid.

Sincerely yours,

W. Loyman

Stephen C. Baldwin, Esq.,
190, Montague Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

March 27, 1913. d

Dear Mr. Rosensohn:

I thank you very much for your kind and considerate letter. I yielded to pretty much all that Judge Olcott asked of me, because I had great confidence in you and him, and also because I felt strongly that I wished Mr. Curran to come out of the matter without any blame being attached to him. I am satisfied that while persons in his district were receiving graft with regard to these licenses, that he did not share in it. I hope he feels that I have full confidence in him.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Gaynor

Mayor.

Samuel J. Rosensohn, Esq.,
26, Liberty Street,
New York.

Mar.28,1913.k

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

Mr. Baldwin has told me what an amount of intelligent work you did in the Curran case. I thank you exceedingly for it, and what is more, although we are both lawyers, I am enclosing to you a check for $1,500 which I think is little enough.

Sincerely ~~yours~~,

L. Laemmle

C. C. Lockwood, Esq.,
35, Nassau Street,
Manhattan.

CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

A Union of Citizens without regard to party, for the purpose of securing the honest and efficient government of the City of New York

OFFICERS

WM. JAY SCHIEFFELIN. . . . . *Chairman*
JULIUS HENRY COHEN
RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL
WILLIAM W. NILES
WILLIAM A. SHORTT . . . . . *Vice Chairmen*
PERCIVAL KÜHNE. . . . . *Treasurer*
J. O. HAMMITT.. . . . . *Secretary*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

FRANK L. BABBOTT — PERCIVAL KÜHNE
HENRY BATTERMAN — ARTHUR C. LUDINGTON
RICHARD S. CHILDS — EUGENE H. OUTERBRIDGE
ELGIN R. L. GOULD — WILLIAM JAY SCHIEFFELIN
HENRY HENTZ — ISAAC N. SELIGMAN

41 PARK ROW (OLD TIMES BUILDING)

TEL. CORTLANDT 5898-5899

April 21, 1913.

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

Sir:-

We respectfully call to your attention certain acts of Mr. James G. Wallace, Jr., the Chief of the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses in New York City, which acts constitute an improper use of such Bureau, and request that you remove Mr. Wallace from his said office.

During the months of February and March, 1913, at the direction of or with the knowledge of Mr. Wallace, standkeepers holding licenses for street stands had their licenses taken from them by men representing themselves to be inspectors from the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses, and were directed by such men to go to the office of the Chief of the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses at a certain time in order to secure the return of their licenses. This was done for the purpose of giving an opportunity to examine the standkeepers at such office, and, if possible, thus obtain evidence for use in your defense in the libel action brought against you by Mr. Curran.

Mr. Wallace was present at and conducted many of such examinations, and at some or all he allowed Charles C. Lockwood, who was acting as associate counsel for yourself in said action, to be present and direct such examinations, and in some instances he allowed

Mr. Lockwood personally to conduct the examinations. In other words, Mr. Wallace allowed his public office to be used for purely private ends and in a wholly improper manner.

By a letter, dated March 17, and by another letter, dated March 20, 1913, we called these matters to your attention, but, so far as we are able to learn, you have taken no action.

We have evidence to prove the above statements and we shall be glad to produce such evidence upon any investigation of this matter conducted by the Commissioners of Accounts or by any other proper authority you may designate.

Very truly yours,

Citizens Union of the City of New York,

By- J. O. Hammitt
Secretary.