

## **J.H. Stewart and Governor Henry Allen correspondence**

J.H. Stewart, President of The National Bank of Commerce in Wichita, Kansas, writes to Kansas Governor Allen about the soon to be held special session of the Kansas legislature. In this letter, Stewart asks the governor to enact a law requiring full disclosure on payments made to union officers and the expenditure of union funds. Stewart states "unions have become political organizations and should come under political regulations." Clyde Reed, Secretary to the Governor, responds to Mr. Stewart during Governor Allen's absence.

Creator: Stewart, J.H.

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UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY.  
No. 5169.

### THE NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE

WICHITA, KANS.

December 8th, 1919

Hon. Henry J. Allen,

Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Governor:

The newspapers report you will call a special session of the Legislature soon.

If you do so, I think it would be a good idea to name as one of the objects of the session that a law be enacted requiring full publicity for payments made to union officers and the expenditure of all union funds.

From my observation the time is here when there is as much necessity for publicity in the handling and use of union money as in the collection and expenditure of political party funds.

The members of all unions are entitled to know where their money goes, and the public are entitled to know that union funds are used for purposes that the public and the Government, State and National approve.

Union heads are as autocratic as the old Kaiser was. It is common belief that in the past union funds have been used for unlawful ends, in fact in some cases, for criminal ends; union members usually profess not to believe this; they as well as the public are entitled to full information both to remove prejudice and as a matter of protection and justice.

Public sentiment emphatically approved the enactment of laws requiring that statements be made of contributions to political funds and their expenditure, and it will as fully approve of such a law at this time.

The only objectors to this publicity will be those who "like political crooks" want to use money for illegal and wrongful purposes.

To all intents and purposes, the unions have become political organizations and should come under political regulations. I believe the



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effect would be very salutary. Think it over and if it is feasible, put it in your call.

Very truly,



JHS-G





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December 11, 1919.

Mr. J. H. Stewart, Vice Pres.,  
National Bank of Commerce,  
Wichita, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Stewart:—

In the absence of Governor Allen, who is  
down in the coal district, I am acknowledging receipt  
of your letter of the 8th inst. and wish to say that  
it will be called to the Governor's attention on his  
return.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to the Governor.