

Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, prohibition

Section 2, Pages 31 - 36

This file includes subject correspondence relating to law enforcement of prohibition which is part of a bigger collection of the Governor's correspondence.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1929-1931 : Reed)

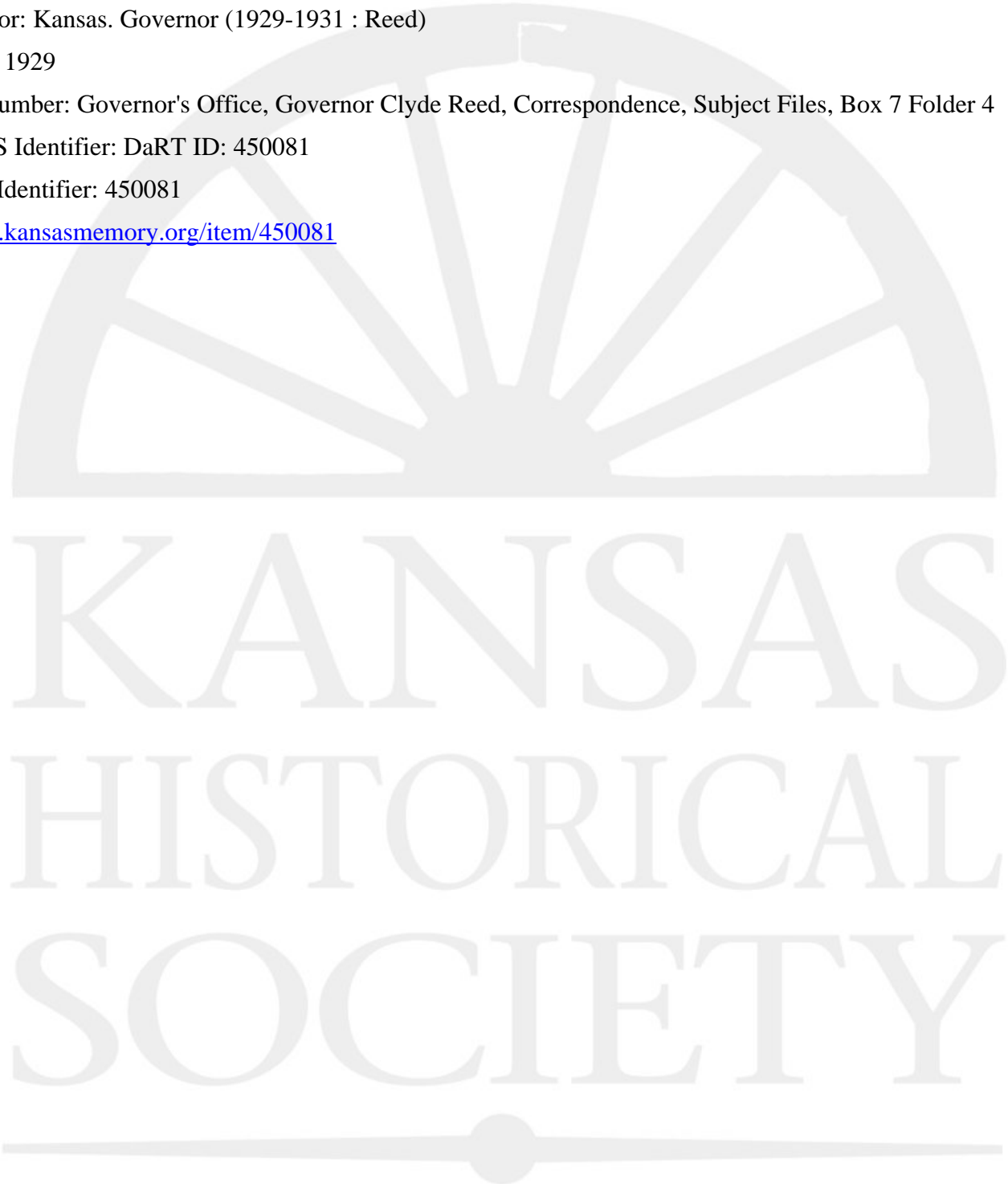
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Expense Account of J. H. Powell for
last half of October, 1929.

Cedar Vale, Kansas.		
October 13,	Dinner	\$.50
	Bus Fare	2.00
	Supper at Wichita	.50
Wichita		
October 14	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.50
	Cash to Jackson	5.00
	Supper	.45
October 15	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.40
	Cash to Lewes	10.00
	Supper	.70
October 16	Breakfast	.35
	Hotel	4.50
	Dinner	.40
	Supper	.50
October 17	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.50
	Supper	.50
October 18	Breakfast	.50
	Hotel	1.50
	Dinner	.50
	Supper	.35
October 19	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.50
	Supper	.35
October 20	Breakfast	.30
	Dinner	.50
	Supper	.50
October 21	Breakfast	.30
	Dinner	.50
	Taxi fare	1.35
	Supper	.50
October 22	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.50
	Supper	.45
October 24	Breakfast	.40
	Supper	.40
	Hotel Bill	10.00
	Dinner (El Dorado)	.50
October 25	Breakfast	.40
	Dinner	.40
	Supper for Three	1.50
	Breakfast for Three	1.20
	Dinner for One	.50
	Supper for Two	.80
October 23	Breakfast	.35
	Dinner	.35
	Supper	.40

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October 26,	Breakfast for Three	1.20
	Dinner for One	.50
	Supper for Two	.80
	Cash for Booze	5.00
	" " "	5.00
El Dorado, Kansas		
October 27	Room rent for Three	10.00
	Breakfast for Two	.80
	Dinner for Two	1.00
	Supper for Two	.80
October 28	Breakfast for Two	.80
	Dinner for Two	.80
	Cash for Booze	3.00
	Supper for Two	.80
October 29	Breakfast for Two	.80
	Dinner for Two	.80
	Supper for Two	.80
Total		<hr/> \$87.25

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WILLIAM A. SMITH
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

ASSISTANTS

JOHN G. EGAN
W. C. RALSTON
ROLAND BOYNTON
LEON W. LUNDBLAD
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STATE OF KANSAS

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL

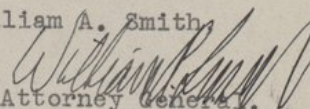
TOPEKA December 14, 1929

Honorable C. M. Reed,
Governor of the
State of Kansas,
Building.

Dear Mr. Reed:

Referring to the affair at Stafford County that received so much publicity, I am enclosing you herewith the report from one Paul Harvey, whom I was obliged to send to Stafford County on account of the fact that every one of my assistants was tied up at that particular time. From this report of Mr. Harvey's I doubt whether there is any action that can be taken in Stafford County, and I am inclined to believe that some of the facts were distorted in the newspapers.

Very truly yours,

William A. Smith

Attorney General.

WAS:GH

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HOTEL LASSEN

OWNED & OPERATED BY
THE RIGBY-GRAY HOTEL CO.

WICHITA, KANSAS

December
Ninth,
1929.

Honorable William A. Smith,
Attorney General,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear General Smith:

I left Topeka Friday last to investigate the conduct of County Attorney Gates and Sheriff Davison of Stafford County. At Wichita I joined Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Powell of your force and drove with them to Hutchinson the same night. On Saturday morning I went to St. John, told the county attorney and sheriff my business with them and what the complaint was against them and asked them to co-operate with me in carrying out my instructions from you. During the entire day of Saturday I was with them and Mr. Dickinson, and together, we went to Stafford, Turon and Hutchinson. I remained in Hutchinson Saturday night and on Sunday, in company with Mr. Frank Patterson of the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory, I went into the northwestern part of Reno County and the northeastern part of Stafford County interviewing witnesses and endeavoring to get a line on the situation. Monday, in company with Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Powell, I went again into the country south of Zenith and Stafford and into Stafford itself and from there back to Wichita, from which place I am making this report.

You will recall that the complaint made by your operatives against these officers was that an extraordinarily large amount of time was consumed by the county attorney in preparing a complaint and warrant for the search of a premises south of Zenith in Stafford County, concerning which your operatives had information of the existence of a still. Your men also complained that they were not able to procure a warrant for the premises they suspected and were obliged to go upon a property for which they had no search warrant in order to seize the still. I am speaking now of the complaint your men made to the Hutchinson newspaper, on their first opportunity to communicate with the newspaper after the seizure of the still. After considering everything I have been able to learn about the matter, I am convinced that no undue amount of time elapsed between the

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demand for a warrant and the preparation of such warrant, and I am further convinced that the county attorney and sheriff did everything in their power to correctly describe in the complaint and warrant the place where the still was supposed to be, working with the meager and incorrect information possessed by your men.

When the raid was made and the location of the still finally arrived at, the still and the condenser were gone. There were on the ground, however, twenty-one wooden vats of a capacity of five hundred (500) gallons each, all of which, except one, were full of mash. There were sixteen (16) Coleman gasoline pressure burners fastened to a large circular iron frame, and pumps and other apparatus usually found in connection with a still of that size. The next day, Tuesday, November twenty-sixth, federal prohibition agents and deputy sheriffs of Stafford County found the boiler of the still, exactly on the Reno County and Stafford County line five and one-half miles south of Zenith, and on November twenty-seventh, found the condenser in an implement shed at an abandoned farm house two miles south of where the boiler was found. The man in whose barn the location for the still was maintained was a Mr. Winchester, who was put under arrest on Monday, November twenty-fifth and against whom an information has been filed by the county attorney, charging him with the possession of a still, of mash, of liquor and of maintaining a nuisance. He is at liberty on a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) bond.

I have discovered that on Monday, November twenty-fifth at about the hour of six o'clock A.M., a telephone call came to the home of Fred Bunyan, who is undoubtedly the owner of the still in question, and some unidentified person informed Mrs. Bunyan that two men from Topeka would be down to see Fred that day and would probably arrive not earlier than one o'clock. Fred Bunyan was seen in his Chevrolet Six truck with a large bulky load covered with a tarpaulin about 8:30 or 9:00 o'clock Monday morning driving from the direction of where the still was found and toward the places where the boiler and condenser were afterward discovered. At the

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time of the telephone call, Dickinson and Powell were in Wichita and had, the day before, planned to go to Stafford County and to leave Wichita about ten o'clock in the morning, which would land them in St. John about one o'clock of the same day. At six o'clock Monday morning, November twenty-fifth, it was practically impossible for the county attorney and sheriff of Stafford County to have known of the proposed raid and I conclude that this call came from Wichita and from all the circumstances I have been able to discover was probably from Otto Hund of that city. This is almost pure speculation on my part, however. There seems to be a tendency on the part of your men concerned to run to the newspapers with matters of this kind and I might say in passing that my work on this matter was considerably handicapped by a news item appearing in the Wichita paper and copied in the Hutchinson paper of Saturday, detailing the fact that I had been sent on this investigation. I have no knowledge of who gave this information to the paper, but I feel that such practice cannot be too strongly condemned. Therefore, my dear General, I conclude that this matter arose from baseless suspicion and ungrounded rumor.

Respectfully,