

UNION STATION MEN ARE WITNESSES

Give Testimony for Defense
in D. C. Stephenson
Murder Trial.

(Continued From Page 1)

Widely given the poison case. He also described another man, but did not mention Dean's name.

Rigdon, who is a man of gigantic stature retailed with the promise that if Kane asked him that question on the street, it wouldn't be so well for him.

Innuendos and insinuations passed by Kane at the first of the cross-examination got under the witness' skin and at times he had his feet on the railing around the witness stand apparently ready at any moment to pounce on Kane.

Kin Queries

Kane darted in on Rigdon, by asking him about his family connections. Rigdon told him that State Representative Joshua D. Carney, of Morristown, Ind., was his wife's cousin.

Kane asked Rigdon a series of nonsensical, but irritating questions and Rigdon replied:

"I'm just human. I can't remember everything." Instead of quieting Kane, the answer seemed to irritate him.

"Who are you working for?" "Clyde A. Wall," Rigdon said that Wall, who is chairman of the Republican State committee, pays him a salary.

"Whom did you work for before?" "The Great Southern, Producing & Refining Co., of Shreveport, La."

Was Registered

"Were you registered under the Indiana securities law?" "Yes, sir. My license was number 266."

Kane asked Rigdon if he could name some of the persons to whom he sold his oil stock. Rigdon named Ora J. Davies, former State Treasurer; S. S. Parkes, Shelbyville, and Dr. D. L. Dill, Logansport.

Rigdon said he met Stephenson three years ago at the home of Edward E. Schultze, Laurel, Ind., who, with his wife, appeared as defense witnesses Saturday. Kane wanted to know why Rigdon had been down to Laurel.

"I was joining the Knights of the Ku-Klux-Klan when I met him," Rigdon said, laughing, and then looked over toward Stephenson and shook his fist at him.

"When did you begin to work politics with him?"

Last Primary

"During the last campaign, the primary."

"How often did you visit him?" "Three or four times a week, some weeks."

"Have you ever been employed by Stephenson to do political work?" "Not in any capacity," Rigdon's answer was drowned out in a symphony of objections from the defense and a wrangle at the State table.

Judge Sparks had to hammer vigorously with his gavel.

"What were your political schemes with Stephenson?" Kane asked.

"We were trying to elect our friends," Rigdon said, after the defense's protest had been overruled.

"Who were your friends?" "Most every one that was elected."

"There was a mingled manner which finally developed into general laughter."

Judge Sparks warned the witness.

"I wish you'd refrain from laughing. If you laugh these people here will laugh," Judge Sparks said, in a stern voice.

"I beg your pardon, judge," Rigdon said.

"Are you on Stephenson's payroll now?" Kane asked.

Wishes He Was

"Only that I wish I was."

"What particular thing brought you to the Legislature every day?" "I'd say the things that brought hundreds of others. I enjoyed seeing the manipulation."

"What manipulations?" "Your friends and my friends."

"Oh, I don't care about my friends," Kane interjected. Another wrangle between Kane and the witness followed.

Judge Sparks again was forced to wield the gavel.

Judge Deplores

"I don't want to be hard, gentlemen, because this relates to my home folks, the Republican party, but I don't want to cover anything up," Kane protested and Sparks had to inform him that he had already ruled in his favor in order to quiet the fiery attorney.

"Manipulation! Manipulation!" Kane seemed to like the word Rigdon had used. "What did you see manipulated. Answer yes or no."

Rigdon tried to argue with Kane that his question was unanswerable, but it availed him nothing.

Laughs Again

"I saw bills introduced passed, and defeated," he explained, bursting into laughter.

"You think this is a joke, don't you?"

On defense objections the last remark of Kane's was stricken from the record.

"Did you ever see Stephenson at the Legislature?"

"I don't remember a single occasion."

"Well, then, did you ever see any members of the Legislature in Stephenson's office?"

"Yes."

"Give me a roster, and I'll name them off." Everybody laughed, but it was significant of the powerful

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Republican on Safety Body

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Witness Rebuked

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"I'm running this court and you keep still," Judge Sparks continued, after he was assured that neither of the two was quite ready to fight.

"You're a pretty strong friend of Stephenson's. You're here to help him out, eh?"

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"What other women have you seen in Stephenson's office?"

Rigdon named two, including an Irvington woman.

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Among them he mentioned were a Mr. Innis from Rushville, a Mr. Campbell from Kokomo and Senator Blackburn at Evansville.

Herbert Eller, 3720 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis Star reporter, appearing as a defense witness, told Kane that at the autopsy at the Shirley Brothers Undertaking Parlor the only thing he saw on Miss Oberholzer in the way of a bruise was a faint blue mark about the size of a penny under the collar.

"Did you ever talk with Foster Strator about this case?" Strator was one of Stephenson's secretaries.

"Only in a general way."

"How many times?" "Oh I couldn't begin to tell you."

"He had a good deal to do with framing up this defense, didn't he?" Kane asked.

Nearly every attorney on Stephenson's side shouted an objection. Judge Sparks struck out the word "framing."

"Do you know Carl Losey?" Losey, former member of the State police force, is said to be a Stephenson agent.

"Yes."

"Did you ever talk with him about this case?"

"Only in a general way."

"He helped organize the defense, didn't he?" Defense attorneys objected again.

"Organize" Upheld

"There's nothing inferential in the word organize. It is to be assumed that the defense would be organized," Sparks explained in overruling this objection.

Rigdon said he didn't know.

After a series of questions concerning Stephenson's imprisonment, Rigdon disclosed that he visited Stephenson the day he was brought to the Hamilton County Jail.

"Oh, you got in on the first, eh? How many more visits since?"

"I have no idea."

Re-interrogating Rigdon, concerning the time he met Madge Oberholzer, Kane made an effort to force the witness to state the exact date. Rigdon told him it was in December, a little before Christmas.

"Christmas is on the twenty-fifth, isn't it?" Judge Sparks sustained the objection to Kane's last question before the defense could utter a word.

"I was introduced to her in his private office, possibly at 5:30 or 6 in the evening," Rigdon said in reply to one of Kane's questions.

Kane fired questions in such rapid succession the witness began to lag.

"Yes, let me tell you how," Rigdon cried out as Kane was heaping up more questions.

"You came up here to help this little thing through, didn't you?" Kane shouted.

Imman Angered

Imman jumped to his feet.

"Your Honor, can't this man be held at all?" Imman asked the judge, pointing to Kane.

"When was the second time you met Stephenson?" Kane asked Rigdon.

"I can't tell."

"When was the third time?"

"To be honest with you, I can't remember."

"How many times did you see Miss Oberholzer in Stephenson's office?"

"Frequently. I wouldn't say daily, but three or four times a week."

"And all this time you were in Indianapolis you were just loafing—just a common hanger-on?"

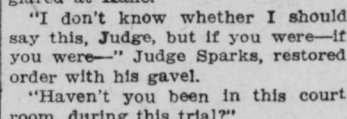
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The witness parried, and Kane thrust his finger toward him and cried out: "Answer it! Answer it!"

"Just phrase it to suit yourself," Rigdon shot back at Kane.

"Will you tell the jury why you

were hanging around the Legislature, loafing around Stephenson's office doing nothing at all?"

Rigdon shuffled about in his chair, casting his eyes first at Kane and then at the judge, clinched his fists, placed one foot on the railing, and glared at Kane.

"I don't know whether I should say this, Judge, but if you were—if you were—" Judge Sparks, restored order with his gavel.

"Haven't you been in this court room, during this trial?"

Denies It

"No! No, I said," the witness shouted as Kane prepared to repeat the interrogation.

"Didn't you talk with Strator and Losey about what you were going to testify?"

"Positively no."

"That's like most of your answers," Kane snarled.

Imman was again on his feet.

"Your Honor, I think that this man ought to be admonished."

"I think the court can handle itself without any suggestions from the counsel. It's about six of one and a half a dozen of the other."

Kane asked Rigdon what time it was that he and Stephenson and Miss Oberholzer drank gin at the Washington Hotel.

"Was it 1 o'clock, 2, 3, 4, or what time was it?"

"I told you I didn't know," Rigdon roared.

"Don't you know that this is a lie, that there is not a word of truth in what you have said here? And that you came here for the express purpose of committing perjury?" Kane demanded with a wild look in his eyes.

"You're not big enough to tell me that on the street," Rigdon shouted, as he stood on his feet, ready to jump bodily over the railing.

"Yes, I'll meet you on the street any time," Judge Sparks interrupted.

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