

# PROSECUTOR CALLS FOR EVIDENCE UPON STEPHENSON GRAFT CHARGES

## SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

Indiana faces a crisis which it cannot evade. Burdened as it has been in the past with scandals which have often made its name a byword, there is now impending a greater one.

The man who was once the ruler of this State, the head of an invisible empire and government which ruled the rulers, declares that he can furnish documentary proof of graft, corruption of elections, of bribery of Legislatures—even of influencing verdicts of juries.

He offers to give that proof if he is permitted to see a group of Republican editors—and a lawyer.

That the name of D. C. Stephenson should again rise to mock and shame the State is lamentable. But it would be more lamentable if no effort were made to obtain and make public any documents he may have or force him to say that he had deliberately lied in an attempt to escape his cell.

The law gives to him the right to appeal from the verdict of murder for which he is serving a life sentence.

His open charge that he is being kept in prison as a result of a conspiracy to seal his lips and protect the men he placed in the seats of power and might is grave. Unfortunately circumstances lend color to the charge that those former satellites and followers would not be sorry to have those lips sealed.

The refusal of Governor Ed Jackson to order promptly and instantly that these Republican editors and six State Senators be permitted to grill this convict and obtain his story and his proof is shaming the State.

His endeavor to pass responsibility to the trustees of that prison for the refusal is specious and beside the point.

The people would have applauded a Governor who at once answered such a challenge by a demand that the charge be proved. They will not applaud one who stands silent and places his office in the attitude of fearing such a probe.

As far as the statement of the prison warden that there is a rule of long standing against permitting any prisoner to be seen by newspaper men, stands the statement of Edward Fogarty, for fourteen years warden of that very prison and removed only a few weeks before the arrival of Stephenson as a prisoner, that never in that time had there been such a rule and never a denial of permission to a prisoner who wished to tell his story to the world. The people may decide which one to believe.

The Times has no interest in the appeal of D. C. Stephenson, except that he obtain the rights which are accorded to all persons under the Constitution.

It saw no loss to society when he was sent to that prison cell to spend the remainder of his life.

It did see a menace in his continued freedom—not as a killer but as the invisible head of an invisible government which gave too much of evil to the State.

The fact remains that Stephenson, and he alone, could prove, if any one can prove, the many stories of corruption and misrule which existed during his reign.

His career is well remembered. His offices were sought out by the politically ambitious. He was the friend, social and otherwise, of those now in high places. He did give orders which were followed in the Legislature. Men asking for offices secured it when he favored them. He was able to dispense patronage and power.

There were rumors of the very corruption which Stephenson now says he can prove. Perhaps the charge may be false. But it was booted about the streets that vast sums were spent and fraudulent votes cast in the 1924 elections. He says he will show how \$200,000 went for these purposes and who got it.

There were rumors of graft in the Legislature, of money paid to kill measures and to pass others, of demands for tribute from this very boss.

It is true, beyond doubt, that many boasted of his friendship, grew rich upon his bounty, rode with him on his private yacht, went with him on journeys and affectionately called him "the Old Man"—this man not yet 40.

And with these facts can Indiana stand for the eyes of the nation pointed in her direction with the questions as to why any one should hesitate a moment to inquire into what proof this man may have?

Here in Indiana, perhaps we might understand. We might take it for granted. We might accept. But we cannot stand this advertisement or in any way permit the State to be convicted by circumstantial evidence of moral anarchy.

Why not go into that prison and force him to deliver the evidence of his own corruption and name his accomplices and prove his charges?

Who is there that believes that any public good can be served by silence and evasion?

## 'TO HELL WITH PUBLIC OPINION'

Guard and State Prison Comes Right Out With Motto

When Reporter Asks to See D. C.

By Garland Ashcraft

Times Staff Correspondent  
MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Oct. 7.—  
"To hell with the public opinion.  
We're running this prison and not  
the people or the newspapers."

Deputy Warden H. D. Claudy of  
the Indiana State Prison, where D.  
C. Stephenson, ex-convict politician,  
who now wants to "talk" is kept,  
was speaking.

A reporter caused the outburst by  
asking to see Stephenson.

The bars of secrecy which for  
weeks have prevented the former  
Klan chieftain and political dictator  
from airing a two year's regime of  
political graft in Indiana, were

clamped down with redoubled force  
today.  
Warden Daly was "not in," ac-  
cording to functionaries about the  
gate.  
Early in the week Daly said: "No-  
body but Stephenson's own attorney  
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## NEW ARREST IN FAMED HAAG CASE

Man Said to Have Told  
Woman He Was One of  
Bandits.

Alleged to have told a woman  
shortly after the shooting of Wil-  
kinson Haag at the Green Mill bar-  
becue, May 17, that he was one of  
the bandits who killed Haag, drug  
company official, a man, 30, living in  
the 2200 block on North Capitol Ave.,  
was in city prison today on a va-  
grancy charge. The man, held un-  
der high bond, was arrested late  
Wednesday.

Detectives have refused to say  
whether or not he has admitted the  
statements accredited to him before  
his arrest.

"I have shaved off my mustache,  
and they will never be able to iden-  
tify me," the man is alleged to have  
told his friend. According to re-  
ports, he later said he was having  
his auto, similar to the one used in  
the hold-up, repaired.

HOURLY TEMPERATURES  
6 a. m. .... 43 10 a. m. .... 51  
7 a. m. .... 44 11 a. m. .... 54  
8 a. m. .... 47 12 (noon) .... 55  
9 a. m. .... 50

## ADAMS TO MAKE ONE MORE PLEA

Plans Further Steps if Jack-  
son Does Not Remove  
Stephenson 'Gag.'

Another appeal to Governor Jack-  
son to let D. C. Stephenson talk in  
State prison will be made by Thom-  
as Adams, Vincennes editor, before  
carrying to the courts his crusade to  
secure a probe of the graft charges  
made by Stephenson.

As evidence of the fear of Steph-  
enson that he may suffer violence a  
letter to Court Asher, his former lieut-  
enant and aviator, was made plain.

"Send me a lawyer quick," was the  
appeal of Stephenson in this letter.

"I have fired all my old lawyers. I  
will give up the blank contracts and  
the canceled checks, notes and ev-  
erything. But I may not be able  
to write many more letters or get  
them through."

"You know what can happen to  
one in my position."

Adams waited today to watch the  
effect of the photographic copies of  
the letter signed by Mayor John L.  
Duvall sent to Stephenson, which he

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## FAIR SKIES FOR ST. LOUIS FINALE IN WORLD SERIES

Probable Line-ups Today

AT ST. LOUIS, 1:30	ST. LOUIS
New York	St. Louis
Ruth, rf	Southworth, rf
Smith, 1b	Bottomley, 1b
Meusel, cf	Belmont, 3b
Lazear, 3b	Hager, 2b
Dugan, 2b	O'Farrell, c
Seaver, c	Thoenes, c
Penning, p	Sherdel, p

By Henry Farrell

United Press Staff Correspondent  
ST. LOUIS, Oct. 7.—Perfect base-  
ball weather greeted this afternoon's  
world series finale as far as this city  
is concerned.

The crushing defeat the New York  
Yankees handed the St. Louis Car-  
dinals, Wednesday, made it impossible  
for the series to end here and the  
two clubs will leave on special trains  
immediately after the game today  
for New York, where play will be  
resumed Saturday.

The Yankees pulled up to a tie  
when they won by a score of 10 to  
5, a game in which Babe Ruth gave  
the greatest exhibition of hitting  
ever seen in a world's series game  
or few other games.

The victory not only put the Yan-  
kees back into the running for the  
championship, but increased their  
momentum. They strongly believe that  
as Ruth hits, they hit. And Ruth  
Wednesday hit three home runs.  
St. Louis, with a faith in the Car-  
dinals that approaches fanaticism, was  
slightly concerned about the chances  
of their heroes in the remaining  
games. The Yanks were an even  
choice in the betting.

It was considered almost certain  
that Rogers Hornsby will use Wee  
Willie Sherdel again and that Herbie  
Pennock, who pitched superbly in  
the first game, would draw the Yank  
assignment.

## Correspondents on Firing Line in City

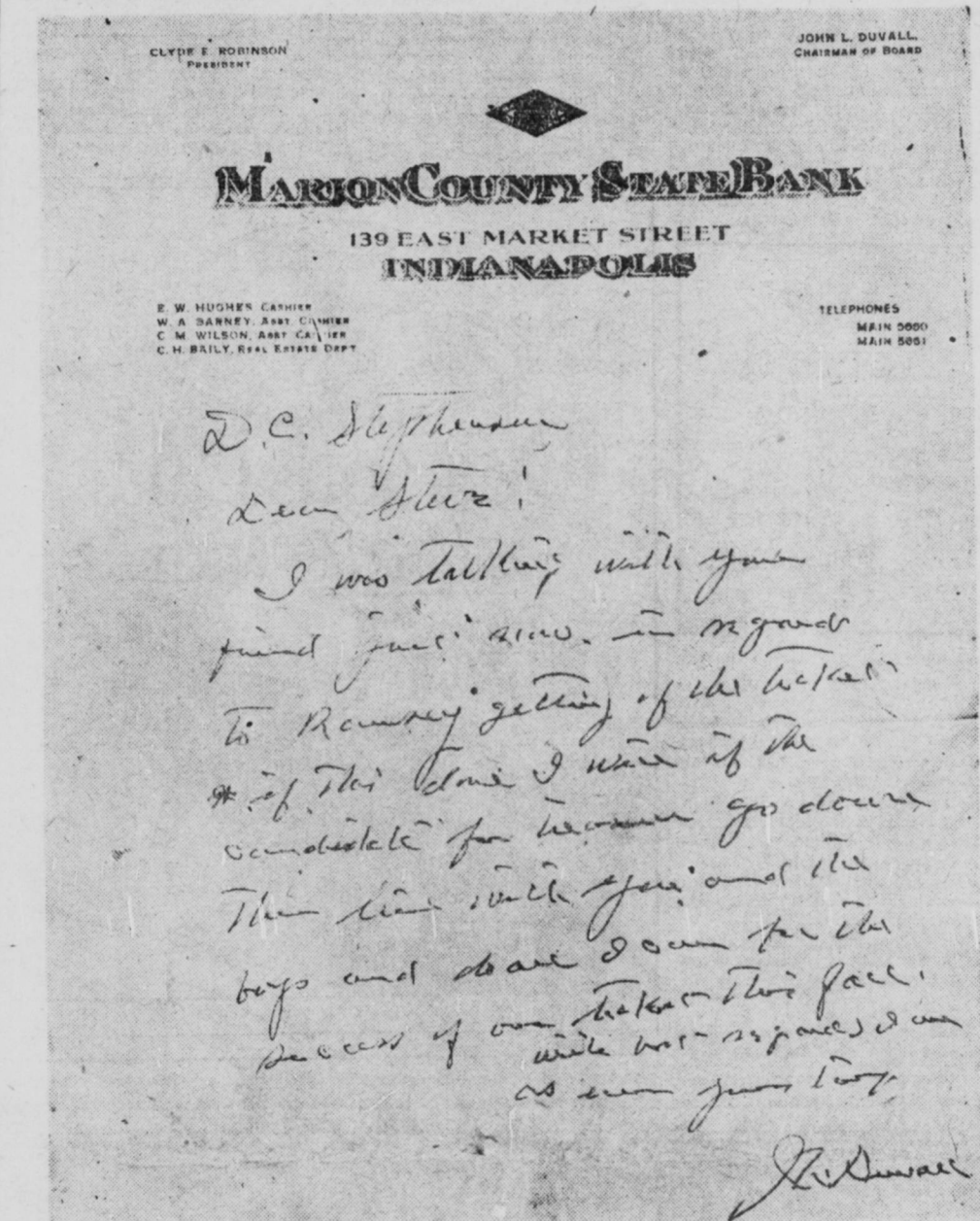
Indianapolis bore some resem-  
blance to the "western front" today.  
A young army of "war correspond-  
ents" gathered here.

Some of the country's greatest  
newspapers have sent staff cor-  
respondents to the city to cover the  
Adams quiz into Stephensonism in  
government.

The Chicago Tribune has Orville  
Blair and Philip Kinsley here. Sam  
Blair is here for the Chicago Herald-  
Examiner and Albert F. Baenziger  
for the Chicago American. The  
Cleveland Times sent Robert Selt  
zer and the Baltimore Sun has  
here W. A. S. Douglas, the man  
who got the famous "poison squad"  
interview from Mrs. Vivian Tracy  
Wheatcraft, vice chairman of the  
Republican State committee. The  
New York World is represented by  
Dudley Nichol and the Cleveland  
Press sent Garland Ashcraft into  
Indiana. The Cincinnati Enquirer  
is specially represented.

The Chicago Tribune and Herald-  
Examiner both used eight-column  
headlines upon the story this morn-  
ing. The Cincinnati Enquirer gave  
it a leading position. Eastern writers  
are filing hundreds of words by tele-  
graph.

## The Mayor Says He Wrote This:



## But, This One He Denies:

Indianapolis, Indiana,  
Feb. 12th 1925

In return for the political support of D.C. Stephenson, in the event

that I am elected Mayor of Indianapolis, Ind., I promise not to appoint

any person as a member of the Board of Public Works with out they first

have the endorsement of D.C. Stephenson.

I also agree and promise to appoint Claude Worley as Chief of Police  
and Earl Klenck as a Captain.

Signed by me this 12th Day of Feb. 1925.

## 'LET STEPHENSON TALK,' PLEA OF OBERHOLTZERS

By Eldora Field

Let Stephenson talk.  
Let the man who was found guilty  
of the murder of their daughter bare  
"the network of crime which existed  
when he was the 'law in Indiana.'"

This is the plea of Mr. and Mrs.  
George Oberholzer, 5802 University  
Ave., whose daughter, Madge, Steph-  
enson is accused of luring to her  
death.

"If Stephenson is bluffing, in the  
name of law and justice, his bluff  
should be called," said Mr. Ober-  
holzer.

In the light of a fading October  
day, the parents sat by the window  
of their Irvington home—the home  
they planned and built several  
years ago, because Madge, their one  
little girl, had grown into woman-  
hood and "wanted things nice."

"Now the Others"

"Our girl is gone now—forever,"  
said Mrs. Oberholzer. "We made  
our fight to bring Stephenson to  
justice, not only for her sake, but  
in the hope that it would help and  
perhaps save other girls. All the  
time, we knew there were others as-  
sociated with him, just as deep dyed  
in crime as he."

"Yes, and we truly believe that  
these guilty ones will be smoked out.  
The network of crime that  
existed when this man Stephenson  
was the 'law in Indiana' will be

brought into the light of public in-  
spection—"her husband broke in."  
"Yes, and when he admits that he  
was at one time the 'law in Indiana'  
he told the truth for once in his life,"  
said Mrs. Oberholzer. "These late  
developments show that the guilty  
ones are fighting among them-  
selves. That's where the fight be-  
longs—among themselves. They'll  
eventually expose each other—it's  
inevitable."

"Whatever contributes to their ex-  
posure is a public benefactor," her  
husband said. "I want to express  
my admiration for the brave activity  
and stand that The Indianapolis  
Times has taken. The Times is mak-  
ing a tremendous contribution to the  
law-abiding citizens of Indiana in this  
matter. Those tarred with the same  
brush as the 'Old Man' must be  
trembling in their shoes."

"Let Him Explain"  
"By every law of justice and good  
reasoning, Stephenson should be al-  
lowed to explain what he says that  
he wants to," Oberholzer continued.  
"He's been disappointed, angered, by  
the fact that those with whom he  
was once associated have not come  
to his rescue. He's cracking a whip  
now. He figures that this is the  
psychological time—just before elec-  
tion. Too, the last of November the  
year is up for an appeal. He's got  
to crack his whip now or never."  
"Yes, he's not only been making

chairs in Michigan City," Mrs. Ober-  
holzer observed thoughtfully. "That  
crafty brain of his has been working  
every minute. 'But just believe he'll  
tell what he knows, though—not  
fully. He's just threatening, in the  
hope of prying up the lid. Time may  
be a great healer, but no passing of  
time will ever make me feel that  
that man should ever be allowed the  
light of freedom in the least,' and  
the gray-haired woman's eyes strayed  
early out into the dusk of the gath-  
ering twilight."

"Others as Guilty"

"Oh nobody knows—that man—  
the agony he caused us," the mother  
said softly. "But just so, we know  
that there were others as guilty as  
he."

"With every good citizen of  
Indiana, we hope that the lid will be  
prried off—that Stephenson will be  
allowed to talk. That the corruption  
hiding behind office and power right  
this minute, shall be brought to  
light," said her husband.

"It may mean the penitentiary for  
a number, but law is law. Steph-  
enson's bluff should be called, or his  
information be obtained W" in those  
six Senators met with Thomas  
Adams—three Republicans, three  
Democrats, why couldn't they have  
been able to obtain the truth? It's  
ridiculous that truth should be so  
throttled. It's ridiculous and crim-  
inal. Let the 'Old Man' talk."

## EXTRA

Bulletin

Promising a complete investigation of corruptino charges  
involving Marion County and Indianapolis city officials bared by  
the newest developments in the Stephenson case, Prosecutor  
Will H. Remy this afternoon asked that documentary evidence  
in the case be presented him.

Remy's statement:

There has been a number of grave assertions in recent news-  
paper articles which if true demand an immediate investigation.  
Some of them concern the State at large and others are directed  
at Marion County and the city of Indianapolis.

"So far as Marion County is concerned I feel that the sooner  
these matters are presented to the proper authorities the better.

"If the charges are true the people have a right to the  
facts. If they are false those accused ought to be vindicated.

"My office stands ready to do its full duty. Thus far no  
evidence has been presented to me.

"If any documentary evidence exists to sustain these charges  
I now ask that it be presented and I further ask the coopera-  
tion of the people to the end that a fair investigation may be  
conducted and the facts brought to light.

"Let us approach this investigation, if there is to be one,  
not as partisans, but as citizens, and let the chips fall where  
they will."

"I'll give \$500 to anyone who can produce an original copy  
of that," declared Mayor Duvall.

He held in his hand a photograph of what purported to be  
an agreement dated Feb. 12, 1925, by him, not to appoint anyone  
upon the board of works until they received the indorsement  
of D. C. Stephenson, now serving a life sentence in the Michigan  
City penitentiary for the murder of Madge Oberholzer, of In-  
dianapolis.

"That is a falsehood and I don't want that thing printed as  
a truth," said Duvall.

Admits Writing Letter.

"But this," he continued, examining a photograph of a letter  
in his own handwriting upon the stationery of a bank of which  
he was chairman of the board, to D. C. Stephenson, saying he  
would become a candidate for county treasurer if Ed Ramsey  
withdrew from the Republican ticket, "is all right. I wrote  
that."

The letter was written two years  
ago.

Both photographs were made pub-  
lic by Thomas Adams, Vincennes  
publisher, who is head of a com-  
mittee of Republican editors investi-  
gating the period during which Steph-  
enson was "the law" in Indiana.

Prosecutor William H. Remy said  
that he would immediately look into  
the photographs.

Later Duvall said he would lay  
the matter of the patronage pledge  
letter before Prosecutor Remy  
with a request that an investiga-  
tion be made to determine whether  
persons responsible for it could  
be criminally prosecuted.

What Duvall Denies

The photograph which Duvall says  
is a falsehood bears this text:  
Indianapolis, Ind.,  
Feb. 12, 1925.

In return for the political sup-  
port of D. C. Stephenson, in the  
event that I am elected mayor of  
Indianapolis, Ind., I promise not to  
appoint any person as a member  
of the board of public works with-  
out they first have the indorse-  
ment of D. C. Stephenson.

I also agree to appoint Claude  
Worley as Chief of Police and  
Earl Klenck as a captain.  
Signed by me this 12th day of  
February, 1925.

(In writing) J. L. Duvall.

The letter in Duvall's handwrit-  
ing which Duvall says he wrote,  
reads:

D. C. Stephenson,

Dear Steve:

I was talking with your friend  
just now in regard to Ramsey get-  
ting off the ticket. If this one I  
will, if the candidate for treasurer,  
go down the line with you and the  
boys and do all I can for the suc-  
cess of our ticket this fall.  
With best regards I am as ever,  
yours truly,

J. L. Duvall.

"Yes, I'll give \$500 to anyone who  
can produce an original of that  
photograph," continued the mayor,  
indicating again the reputed pledge  
to name Stephenson men on the  
board of works. Claude Worley, chief  
of police, and Earl Klenck as a cap-  
tain.

Where Did They Get It?

"I wonder where they got such  
a thing as that. Why, look at that  
signature. That's a stamp."

Claude Worley now is inspector of  
detectives. It was insistently ru-  
mored before Duvall finally an-  
nounced his appointments that Wor-  
ley was to be the chief. However,  
Worley was made an inspector of  
police and continued in that capacity  
until a few months ago when he was  
transferred to head the detective de-  
partment, going over the veteran  
Jerry Kinney, once chief of police,  
a nationally known detective, who  
now is a detective captain.

Klenck Indicted

Earl Klenck was one of Steph-  
enson's bodyguards and handy men  
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## COUNCILMEN SEE COFFIN BEFORE PROBE SESSION

A few minutes before 1 p. m.  
Wednesday, the time scheduled for  
consideration of resolutions that city  
officials were involved in the ramifi-  
cations of the Stephenson scandal,  
members of the city council's "in-  
vestigating" committee were in con-  
ference with Mayor Duvall at the  
city hall.

The councilmen were to view data  
gathered by Thomas Adams, chair-  
man of the Republican State Ed-  
itorial Association committee, asso-  
ciation with Stephenson, concerning  
city officials.

The councilmen were President  
Boynton J. Moore, Walter R. Dor-  
sett, chairman of the "investigating  
committee, and Otis E. Bartholomew.  
However, the three councilmen  
denied that they were with Coffin.

Flee From Coffin

The three councilmen, learning  
that they were followed by a news-  
paper reporter, fled from the Repub-  
lican county headquarters on the  
fourth floor of the Knights of Py-  
thias Bldg. by an unrequited exit.  
Earlier in the morning Moore had  
conferred with Mayor Duvall at the  
latter's office in the city hall.

Following this conference, Duvall  
is said to have asked whether pho-  
tostatic copies of documents are con-  
sidered evidence in courts of justice.

Worley There  
Following the conference with  
councilmen, Coffin and Inspector of  
Detectives Claude Worley left the  
building together.

Gathered in G. O. P. headquarters  
at the time of the conference were  
many city officials, including Joseph  
C. Buchanan, Coffin's nemesis in the  
1925 Legislature and now city  
smoke inspector; George Woodward,  
streets superintendent, and other  
lesser political lights.

Mayor Duvall today was busy con-  
fering with other politicians. Among  
his callers was Todd Young, who  
managed the primary candidacy of  
Senator Arthur R. Robinson in Mar-  
ion County.

Charles (Judge) Orbison, nation-  
al vice president of the Klan, who  
is one of the chief sponsors of Sen-  
ator James E. Watson, called  
breathlessly at the office of Police  
Chief Claude F. Johnson.

A policeman who had been talk-  
ing to Johnson was dismissed post-  
haste. There followed a conference  
of twenty minutes.  
Then Johnson and Orbison rushed  
to a police automobile.

"I've got to go to the city hall  
right away," Johnson informed a re-  
porter.

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