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Report of Denver Bar Association Publicity Committee on Amendment No. 4

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Report of Denver Bar Association Publicity Committee on Amendment No. 4

James A. Marsh, Esq.,
President Denver Bar Assn.,
Ernest & Cranmer Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

My dear Mr. Marsh:

In response to your request for a memorandum upon the part of the Denver Bar Association Publicity Committee, having in charge Amendment No. 4, concerning Justices of the Peace, I beg leave to submit the following report:

On or about March 7, 1927, you appointed a Committee composed of C. H. Pierce, Charles R. Enos and Charles J. Kelley to have charge of the publicity end of the Police Court

Charter Amendment, sponsored by the Association.

On or about April 18, 1927, the Charter Amendment petitions were filed with the City Clerk and the Committee was assured that the Amendment would appear upon the ballot and be known as Amendment No. 4.

The Committee immediately organized for its work. Several preliminary meetings were held at which proposals were made, tentative plans were outlined and a more or less elastic program was finally adopted for the purpose of giving all possible publicity to the Amendment.

Early in the proceedings it develop-

ed that the Publicity Committee would be practically without funds to assist in its campaign. Under these circumstances it was decided to make urgent appeal to the members of the Denver Bar, whether members of the Denver Bar Association or not, to assist in the work.

Decision was made to divide the work of the Committee as nearly as possible into sections and the following Sub-Committees, whose membership was taken from the members of the Bar, were organized: Radio, Movies, Labor Organizations, Civic Clubs, Speaker's Bureau, Newspapers, District Organizations.

At the inception, Mr. Charles J. Kelley in person took charge of the work of the Committee on Radio. Later on, this duty was assumed by other attorneys.

The active work upon the part of the Committee concerning Moving Picture Theatres was taken over by Messrs. Hickey and Dunbar. Slides were prepared by the Committee, setting forth in terse language the necessity for the Amendment and the fact that it would not increase taxation. The Moving Picture Theatres Committee induced twenty-eight motion picture theatres in Denver to display these slides upon their screens continuously from May 7th to May 16th, inclusive.

The work of the Committee upon Labor Organizations was taken over by Floyd Miles and J. H. Murray and reports made by these gentlemen and members of their committee indicate that the necessity for the Amendment was presented to nearly every Labor Organization in the City of Denver. The work of the Committee upon Civic Clubs was taken over by Hubert L. Shattuck and Harold M. Webster. It was the intention and purpose of the Committee to secure attorneys who were members of the various Civic

Clubs and ask them to present the Amendment at the meetings of these clubs. This plan succeeded in the main and much good work was done.

The Chamber of Commerce announced a policy that it did not permit addresses to be made before its body at meetings upon any Amendment whatever. However, various other Civic Clubs courteously responded and permitted the speakers to present their story.

The work of the Speaker's Bureau was taken over by Harold Webster of Barker, Lindstrom & Webster. In this connection it should be stated that through the courtesy of Mr. H. O. Hendricks, Manager of the Midland Savings Bank Building, the Committee was permitted to open headquarters at Suite 319, and in these headquarters, furniture and some equipment, sufficient for the purposes of the Committee, were installed.

Every morning from May 1st to May 16th the headquarters obtained a list of all the political meetings that were to be held in the City on that night. These lists were furnished to the Chairman of the Speaker's Bureau, and thereupon he provided a speaker for the various meetings. The report made by Mr. Webster shows that ninety-four speakers were provided at an equal number of meetings held during the two weeks preceding the election. In addition to this a large number of speakers voluntarily, upon the solicitation of the Committee, attended meetings of the various organizations concerning which no report was made to the Speaker's Bureau.

The report of Mr. Webster also calls attention to the names of certain attorneys who gave of their time and their utmost effort to put over Amendment No. 4: Joseph H. Murray, Harold F. Collins, Otto Moore, Gilbert McDonough, Charles Rosenbaum, Charles Enos, Theodore Chisholm, Jean Kelly,

Carlos Richardson, Felis O'Neill, N. A. Hutchinson, James Hoffman, Harold Healy, and others.

The work concerning newspapers and publications was taken over by Roy C. Hecox, Jr., and L. Leslie Myles. This committee got in personal touch with nearly every newspaper and publication in the City and furnished them with facts, data and arguments in favor of the Amendment. Some of the newspapers gave assistance and others urgently solicited advertising. The Committee being practically without funds was unable to place advertising, however it may have desired to do so in any newspaper.

The work of District Organization was taken over by B. E. Sweet as chairman, assisted by Mr. Paul D. Shriver. The purpose of this organization was to secure from the regular political parties lists of the names of attorneys in each precinct of the various election districts of the City, secure their co-operation and the placing of cards and literature in every house in every precinct. The magnitude of the task prevented its complete accomplishment; however, much was done in this direction. The District Organization Committee succeeded in organizing a Sub-Committee consisting of about twenty-five lawyers, and this Sub-Committee was in charge of organizing the work in the various districts and precincts. It distributed the mimeographed literature which was furnished by the Publicity Committee and aided in the work of distributing the 50,000 cards.

A number of automobile stickers were prepared and distributed through this Sub-Committee to the lawyers, with the request that these stickers be used upon their automobiles.

A very earnest effort was made by the Publicity Committee itself to reach the various church organizations of the City through literature and personal

appeal. These efforts met with some degree of success.

Another Sub-Committee was organized, consisting of ten lawyers and unto this Committee was furnished a list of all the attorneys in the City of Denver, which list was divided into ten sections and each one of these attorneys was requested to call upon the telephone the attorneys upon his list, the Monday before election and ask their personal effort at the polls and in their several precincts upon election day.

From the Headquarters in the Midland Building, literature was distributed throughout the business district of the City, an effort being made to cover more particularly the district between Fourteenth and Eighteenth Streets. From various reports coming from Headquarters, these efforts were successful and every business house and office in the district indicated was provided with this literature, whether they read it or not.

It is impossible in this communication to give the names of all the attorneys who rendered assistance and I particularly ask that it be not considered that the mention of particular names excludes others who gave of their time. The Committee met with rebuffs from certain attorneys, but upon the whole a fine spirit of co-operation was developed, especially toward the end of the campaign.

The Publicity Committee upon discovering that funds would be required for its campaign asked the consent of the executive committee of the Bar Association to solicit voluntary contributions from members of the Bar. This consent was given.

Mr. Harold F. Collins took charge of this campaign to solicit funds and called to his assistance other attorneys in various office buildings of the City. A list of names of those who contributed to this fund, together with the

amounts of the various contributions is attached to this communication. The total amount subscribed was \$253.25.

The Kistler Stationery Company furnished 50,000 cards at a small fraction of the actual cost in an effort to aid in this public service.

Not all of the bills have been presented to the Publicity Committee as yet, but I consider it probable that the amount realized from these subscriptions, plus the amounts furnished from the Association funds by the Secretary, Mr. Gould, will be sufficient to cover the expenses of the Committee, with the possible exception of six or seven dollars. That is my estimate at this time. A detailed, itemized statement will be furnished as soon as possible.

I cannot permit this branch of the subject to pass without the suggestion that Mr. Albert J. Gould, the Secretary of the Denver Bar Association, rendered to the Publicity Committee valuable services when requested.

The Vote Upon the Amendment

Amendment No. 4, according to the returns at my disposal shows a vote for the Amendment of 22,484, and a vote against the Amendment of 32,511. Thus, the Amendment was defeated by 10,027 votes. It was defeated by a less number of votes than any other Amendment except No. 1, increasing the pay of the firemen and policemen. The Amendment increasing the pay of the firemen and policemen was defeated by a majority of 9,455 votes.

I do not know how much money was expended in furtherance of this Amendment, nor of Amendment No. 6. Amendment No. 6 was defeated by 11,084 votes and the campaign in its favor was backed by the various improvement bodies and it was provided with ample funds.

A clipping giving the final count upon all the Amendments is attached to this communication.

The Denver Post alone, of all the Denver newspapers published a criticism of the Amendment, stating in substance that it was unnecessary and originated for the purpose of creating political jobs.

In conclusion, from the record as made, I beg to suggest that there is nothing in the result of which the Bar Association should feel ashamed. All of the proposed Amendments were defeated and Amendment No. 4 was lost in the general landslide, but by a majority less than any other Amendment save one.

The Publicity Committee extends its thanks to those attorneys who gave of their time, energy and skill in the furtherance of the cause.

The original Police Court Committee which collected the data and prepared the Amendment was composed of the following: Luke J. Kavanaugh, chairman, Wayne C. Williams, Joseph C. Sampson, Harold H. Healey, Judge Henry Bray.

Very respectfully submitted,

C. H. PIERCE,
Chairman of
Denver Bar Assn.
Publicity Committee
on Amendment No. 4.

The President of the Bar Association desires to express the sincere appreciation of the Association for the unusually fine work and untiring service rendered by the Publicity Committee, and those who assisted the committee in this work.

The valuable service already rendered by this original Police Court Committee has been previously acknowledged.

JAMES A. MARSH,
President.