January 5, 1945

STATEMENT CONCERNING RE-COUNT OF AMERICA FIRST BALLOTS IN OAKLAND COUNTY

The following is a statement by L. L. Marion, candidate for Governor on the America First Party Ticket, and approved by Gerald L. K. Smith:

Reports which came to our leadership prior to and since the election of November 7, 1944, reveal that in many precincts in the State of Michigan no attempt was made to count America First Party ballots. Certain newspapers even encouraged what we believed was corruption by ridiculing the vote of the America First Party. Based on affidavits and first-hand reports, we decided to test the authenticity of these rumors by demanding a re-count in a typical county. Following a conference we decided on Oakland County. Thereupon, L. L. Marion deposited with the Secretary of State $670 made necessary to guarantee a re-count in Oakland County's 134 precincts.

The rumors which we heard have now been established as true -- namely, that the entire election, as symbolized by Oakland County, reeks with corruption, fraud, inaccuracy and incompetency, not to count outright thievery and skullduggery.

Prior to the date of the re-count, Dr. Marion was approached on numerous occasions and urged to call off the re-count. He was assured that all of his money would be returned, but he insisted that the re-count be fully completed.

In more than two-thirds of the precincts the America First Party had been short-counted from 10% to 90%. In Precinct No. 11 only one-fifth of the America First ballots were counted. In Precinct No. 17 only one-eighth of the America First ballots were counted. In Precinct No. 19 only one-tenth of the America First ballots were counted. In Precinct No. 21 only one-half of the America First ballots were counted. In Precinct No. 10 nearly all the spoiled ballots found were America First ballots, and in this Precinct two-thirds of the America First ballots were spoiled. The completed re-count reveals that in the 134 precincts, 25% of the America First Party ballots were not counted.

Added to the above sensational facts, which prove fraud beyond doubt, we found practically no straight America First Party ballots, although we either have or can secure hundreds of affidavits to the effect that these people voted the straight America First Party Ticket. This leads us to the conclusion that straight ballots were destroyed, and to make up the total, blank ballots were substituted.

Therefore, we are making certain test observations and calling in election officials for testimony concerning typical precincts. For example, in Precinct No. 28 election officials testified under oath that certain PAC politicians planted unqualified workers in this precinct, who initialed blank ballots brought in from another precinct.

These blank ballots were inserted in the ballot box and counted as votes. In this precinct alone there were 89 such ballots. Based on our observations we are bound to conclude that these 89 faked ballots were inserted as substitutes for America First Party votes.

Although testimony has been taken from the officers of only two precincts, we see nothing to indicate that this was not a uniform practice throughout the entire City of Pontiac.

During the testimony of these election officials under oath, it was admitted that certain individuals had deliberately voted twice.

We refuse to accept anything that looks like a whitewash of this re-count.

We, therefore, challenge the Secretary of State, Herman Dignan, to deal with this corruption under the law.

If it is possible; to count only one-tenth of the ballots in certain precincts; if it is possible for citizens, with the knowledge of election officials, to vote from two to ten times each; if it is possible for election officials to openly advise subordinate clerks to pay no attention to the minority party votes, then anything is possible, and we have no way of knowing that the recent election was in any sense legal.

It is obvious that the radical and the bureaucratic elements of the State of Michigan are determined that regardless of the methods that are to be employed, there must be no new party in Michigan.

This represents corruption, crookedness, at its worst. Naturally, because of the newness of our Party, we did not have watchers in the various polls. Based on the facts which we have been able to gather as the result of the re-count, there is no way to determine how many ballots were substituted, mutilated, and otherwise destroyed.

A copy of this statement has been forwarded to the following: Secretary of State, Herman Dignan; Attorney General John Dethmers; Prosecuting Attorney of Oakland County; One Man Grand Jury Judge Carr; and Attorney Kim Sigler.

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Note: Those desiring to whitewash this corrupt situation would like to blame it on what they call inefficient help. Is there any way to excuse an inefficiency which can only count one ballot out of 10 in certain precincts, and one ballot out of 5 in other precincts, and one ballot out of 7 in still other precincts?

We have reason to believe that the condition in Oakland County is typical of what took place all over the State. In fact, rumors and reports which have come to our attention indicate that conditions were much worse in Wayne County than they were in Oakland County.