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Jersey Press and People Laud Journal's Vice Expose

From the press of New Jersey, even in Atlantic City itself, and from hundreds of citizens, rich and poor alike, come glowing words of praise for the Evening Journal's exposure of the vice and corruption that are strangling the resort.

Demands for a State investigation or a State cleanup, by force if necessary, feature the newspaper comment which lauds the Journal's detailed portrayal of the playground's iniquity and points the finger of scorn at authorities who dare not deny the sensational facts.

In the hundreds of letters received by the Evening Journal from the aroused decent citizens of Atlantic City the hope is expressed that this staggering exposure will eventually lead to the ousting of the rum and vice barons, the crooked officials and all their ilk.

Practically every letter contains additional information concerning the crimes against man and law that go on every day at the seaside resort—convincing evidence that Atlantic City knows the truth of the Journal's charges.

ACTION DEMANDED.

A demand for immediate action against the vice kings is voiced by the Newark Ledger, which says:

"The charges as outlined by the Evening Journal are so definite and so shocking that immediate action should be taken, if, as is charged, 'the city is ruled by a vice boss at the head of a vice ring', to jail the boss and destroy the ring.

"Governor Dan Moody cleaned up the town of Barger, Texas, by sending in a detachment of Rangers which closed the dens and compelled all officials in league with lawlessness to resign.

"If the Atlantic City authorities refuse to act upon the charges now made public, Governor Larson should follow Dan Moody's example . . ."

Atlantic City apparently needs outside assistance in the housecleaning process "which it is unable or unwilling to make on its own initiative," says the Trenton Times, in quoting from the Evening Journal's charges.

"The allegations in substantiation of the charges," it continues, "are sufficiently numerous and impressive to preclude indifference on the part of the State Legislature. It is the bounden duty of the Legislature to take immediate steps to remedy vicious conditions without regard to partisanship . . ."

URGES AN INQUIRY.

The Trenton State Gazette also urges a legislative inquiry, saying that "until all basis for belief in the truth of these allegations has been dispelled, New Jersey and the Republican Party, which controls the Government of Atlantic City, must remain under a cloud."

"The charges are too serious to be ignored, the Gazette continues, "and the Legislature is the one body best equipped to get at the truth and to iniate whatever measures may be necessary to clean up the situation in Atlantic."

Dismissing the claims of Atlantic City authorities that the exposure is due to politics the Paterson Morning Call challenges them to answer in these words:

"No one has yet come forward with a downright denial of the truth, at least in part, of these charges and unless those who are responsible for the good name of Atlantic City come forward and absolutely deny these stories and defy the publication uttering them to prove them outsiders will be inclined to believe that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire."

Charging the "State House ring" with utterly flopping in the Case investigation a year ago the Union City Hudson Dispatch praises The Journal for going "where the boss-controlled Legislature would not go" and for taking up the exposure "of conditions which the politicians tried to hide."

"OUGHT TO RESIGN."

One of Atlantic City's own newspapers—the Press—professes bewilderment concerning what is behind The Journal expose, but points out that the motitve is unimportant, because "if one-tenth of what The Journal charges is true, the law enforcing officials of Atlantic City and county, and perhaps even of New Jersey, ought to resign and give somebody else a chance."

The Eevening Journal offices have been fairly deluged with letters of commendation For obvious reasons, the names of the writers cannot be revealed. Although many of these letters come from leading citizens of New Jersey, most of them request their names be withheld. They fear, for all their prominence, the revenge of the murderous gangs that hold sway over Atlantic City.

From one of the leading business men of the resort come these demning words:

"You paper is correct in saying that the citizens here are afraid to expose those conditions for fear they will be jailed on some false pretext, held incommunicado or that they will suffer bodily harm.

"Having been in every large city in the United States and having lived in some very corrupt ones, I say without hesitation that conditions are worse in this whole Atlantic City section than the rest of the United States has any conception of."