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### R.E. Johnson to George Morris, Commercial Appeal, 1931

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Memphis, Tenn.  
Sept. 3, 1931.

Mr. George Morris, President,  
The Commercial Appeal, Inc.,  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Morris:

Last Friday evening I was in the office of the Commercial Appeal conversing with Mr. Guy Newbern and Mr. Ray Ash. During this conversation, Mr. Ash remarked that he was in one of Jim Mulcahy's numerous places one morning about 3:00 AM during the recent biennial registration and that Mulcahy's men had a registration book and were writing names in the book and making out registration certificates.

I have been informed that your police reporter, Mr. "Red" Braswell, was in Jim Mulcahy's home at 724 Polk Avenue, about the same hour one morning between Aug. 10th, and Aug. 20th, and that he witnessed a like scene. Mr. Braswell certainly had an opportunity for a great scoop and the privilege is as yet his. Of course, one would not care to reveal the "how" secrets of a friend, but there are times when a home is not a home.

Mr. Jim Mulcahy is privileged to operate five dives on Beale Avenue, including the famous old "MONARCH" and he is also privileged to operate that famous place for the assemblage of pleasure seeking blackamoors, the "MY BLUE HEAVEN" on Polk Avenue, but I protest my privilege, right, grant, or concession, that Jim Mulcahy possesses, whether conferred formally or informally, that permits him to use a registration book for voters, as a social register for imaginary Africans.

Mulcahy, it seems, is short or was short on bogus registration certificates, therefore, a Spencarian night school at the corner of Polk and McKinley Sts. was the only salvation. You will recall that I mentioned the possibility of an independent candidate for office being "gatted" at Polk and McKinley Sts. when I announced my candidacy for office.

This information may no doubt shock at least one of the finer sensibilities of Brother Clifford Davis. Bro. Davis in addressing the Strand Bible class, Sunday September 6th, said, "In these perilous times, when there are so many of us in misery, there is one safe anchor, and that is the Holy Bible". Brother Davis has "got in on" most of these in misery, for the reason that he has "more anchors". He is anchored to beetleggers, gamblers, illegal registration certificates and every other vicious and corrupting influence in this community.

Brother Clifford Davis, as Vice-Mayor and Fire and Police Commissioner of the City of Memphis, is the most palpable, obvious and blatant fraud that was ever anchored to a white community south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Respectfully,

Signed R. Russel Johnson,  
701 Richmond Avenue, Memphis, Tenn.

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