REYBURN MOVES TO ASSIST M'NICHOL

Discharges Secretary Kaufmann and Makes Serious Charges Against Him.

A SNEER AT GIBBONEY

Does Not Believe Stories About the Boss Squeezer—Kaufmann is Firm.

After D. C. Gibboney had testified yesterday that Director of Public Safety McNichol had virtually confessed to him that he had helped to "fix" the Salter jury, Mayor Reyburn, thinking he had found a startling revelation, gave a certificate of good character to McNichol as against Gibboney, and said he didn't believe what the law and Order secretary had sworn to. At the same time Mr. Reyburn proved how completely he had been won by McNichol into being a participant in the long-drawn-out plot of eliminating from politics and public life everybody and everything in which McNichol, Charles L. Brown had been personally or politically interested. The Mayor joined in the sneering at Gibboney, and in the attempt to crush his private secretary, Max Kaufmann, who had all along been personally close to Brown, and whose wrestling in the clash with McNichol and Reyburn would probably be regarded as the culmination of the long series of punishments inflicted upon the Fifteenth ward Senator and his friends during the last twelve months.

The Mayor, after the sensational development of the magistrate's hearing of Kaufmann's libel suit against McNichol, wrote a letter demanding Kaufmann's resignation as secretary, and declaring that he had ordered if he would not resign. With an inconsistency as remarkable as McNichol's two decisions in the $10,000 buncoer the man to whose incumbency of the Mayor's secretaryship he had silently submitted for more than a year, Reyburn vociferously blurted out the startling intimation that his desk in the Mayor's office had been "tampered with" by Kaufmann, who, he said, was the only person besides himself who had the key for that piece of furniture.

MAYOR'S AMAZING STAND.

Reyburn, just after McNichol's openly accusing Kaufmann of having received "the $10,000" from him, suddenly became apparently just as eager a starter in political contractor boss to defame the secretary whom he admitted having kept for six months in spite of the enmity of McNichol's charge against him. And when Gibboney had told the Magistrate yesterday of McNichol's two decisive utterances the alleged bribing of the late Mayor Ashbridge with $120,000, Reyburn's memory was so jogged that he could not forbear to rise from his chair to the accusing of smoking from his the vindictive declaration that Kaufmann had not been his secretary a week before the Mayor's desk was "tampered with." But the Mayor defiantly declared, after giving the impression that his secretary had these enemies who tampered access to the Reyburn papers, etc., that he had no fear from any public or private attack, and that Kaufmann was the only man he knew of anything found in that desk.

These amazing admissions that the Mayor had thus kept right on for more than a year with a secretary whom he at last jotted McNichol down as being a criminal, were mingled in a long talk by Reyburn about the incidents of the McNichol-Kaufmann case. When asked to explain why he could have done this, the Mayor fell back upon such excuses as he had given when specifically questioned yesterday about that Kaufmann had been permitted all along to continue opening Reyburn's mail.

NOT AFRAID OF EXPOSURE.

Among the things never announced to the public by the Mayor until after McNichol began his open attack upon Kaufmann, was the Reyburn allegation that the secretary was "tampered with" if that work, as he "opened everything in the mail, even letters which, he could plainly see, should be left for him to open." All that Reyburn seemed able to say in explanation of his putting up with these extraordinary conditions of intrigue, faithlessness and espionage, the first place, he wasn't afraid of anything that could be given out, and besides, he had the objection to "hurting the secretary might be up to." Altogether Reyburn's course, as admitted by himself, is so hard to comprehend as McNichol's.

"I haven't seen Kaufmann to-day," said the Mayor at the opening of the fine from a battery of questions, several hours after the close of the magisterial hearing. "It is reported," one query ran, "that the reason for Mr. Kaufmann's absence from here is that he is dodging because he has possession of a lot of damaging stuff about the Administration, and feels himself in a position to successfully resist being fired?"

WROTE LETTER OF DISCHARGE.

This aroused Reyburn, who instantly called his stenographer, William F. Gleason, and without answering the question, dictated the letter to send to Kaufmann, which he ordered to be sent by special messenger at once:

Dear Sir—You will be good enough to turn over the keys and other things belonging to me in your charge to Mr. Gleason immediately upon receipt of this. I take this action intending it to be a discharge if you do not resign, to close this day."

"There, I guess that settles it" said Mr. Reyburn, with a smiling look at his interrogator. "I believe that statement made by McNichol, accusing Kaufmann, he went on, "that Kaufmann has said at the hearing that he received from McNichol money which he spent for him. Why, that's sufficient of itself. Did I forget to tell Kaufmann guilty six months ago? My action indicates that I did, as he has not really been in secretary's full sense of the word during all that time."

HAD AN OBJECT IN VIEW.

"Why then did you let him open the mail during that period?" Mr. Reyburn was asked.

"Because," he replied, "I had an object in view, and I had nothing to hide."

"Who is the second man whom you have referred to as having been in that $10,000 affair with Kaufmann, according to the information which you say you got from McNichol so long ago?"

"I won't tell," the Mayor declared. "I'm not going to bring anybody else into this."

Mr. Mayor, came another question, "Mr. Gibboney has testified that Mr. McNichol admitted having been, with others, responsible for John Weaver's coming to Mr. Weaver's office and offering having been a party to the fixing of the Salter jury. If Mr. McNichol was guilty of that wouldn't you consider him at least as dangerous a man as you consider Kaufmann, to be associated or have relations with?"

GOOD IN BELIEFS GIBBONEY.

The Mayor checked his hand and declared: "I don't believe Gibboney's statement.

"Well, if it were true, wouldn't you regard Mr. McNichol as a dangerous associate or adviser?"

"Yes, I would, if it were true," Mr. Reyburn said, "but I don't believe it. I never had anything to do with crooked politics. I don't know anything about such things. I don't believe Mr. McNichol has said, and I don't believe Gibboney, who has been trying to do spectacular things that harmed, instead of benefiting the community."

"Then you have not been asked by McNichol or other leaders to use your influence in behalf of anything that was crooked or harmful to the community and you do not fear what Mr. Kaufmann may have found in the mail by his sleeve with the object of showing your administration? You are willing to let all the men who have elected you send their contents exposed to the public?"

"I don't fear anybody," Mr. Reyburn defiantly replied. "I dare challenge the person you mention or anybody else to make the most of anything found here. I never was in any trouble. You don't care where charges of the kind you refer to come from. I defy the person or anybody else to show I ever Do leader or boss has asked me to do anything crooked. Neither McNichol or any other character has asked me to do wrong, or exacted any questionable promise or any kind of a promise from me. Much and all the contractors have like access to me here."

"Why did Mr. McNichol wait so long before telling Max Kaufmann?"

HE DEEP TAMPERED WITH.

"I don't know," the Mayor said, "but I suspected him from the first. I found my desk and table rifled from tampered with. He hadn't been here a week then. The desk had been opened, and the papers inside had been rifled. I suspected him, mind about this I subsequently laid papers and things in such a way that I could tell if anybody had been there. I came back and found they were not disturbed. I suspected McNichol. I suspected Kaufmann, was the Reyburn allegation. The case that first attracted my attention. I had strong suspicions always that my desk and contents were tampered with. I had suspicions that anything taken out of my hands and wants to make either private or public use of it he is welcome to do so. Let him publish it to the world.

"Do you suspect that this tampering was done for the information of others, either politicians or business enterprises?"

"It was because I had suspicions of that sort that I kept him here. I thought he was doing something of that kind, and I just wanted to find out things.

"Whose interest do you think he was serving—any newspaper's, any alliance?"

SUSPECTS NO NEWSPAPER.

"No, I don't suspect any newspaper. Anyhow, I don't think that anything found in the desk or papers could be of interest to a newspaper or any party or individual."

In a new form the question was put as to what the Mayor would think of McNichol if he believed the Gibboney testimony as to Senator Penrose's part in the fixing and other matters. Mr. Reyburn said:

"You may think Gibboney's word is as good as McNichol's. But I don't have my own opinion. I don't believe Gibboney, and I can't conceive of anybody's being influenced by his testimony who is familiar with what Gibboney has been saying and doing in the past. I don't thought the Gibboney talk was merely for effect against the Republican Organization.

"No, I had never before heard the story that the Ashbridge administration was fixed up for $130,000. But I have been hearing stories like that about every Mayor here as far back as I can remember. I suppose there are or will be similar stories about me.

MAYOR'S ANGER AT NO CONTRACT.

"No; I never had any private contract with Kaufmann. It is not true that I paid him anything more than the salary he got from the city for his secretaryship. But he did represent himself as a very valuable man to me—as having had an enormous salary in a newspaper for "TheRecord," and, therefore, he was decidedly backward about accepting the private secretaryship here, after getting a great deal more than $3000 a year when working for "The Record." No; I gave him at once discharged if he would not resign. With an inconsistency as remarkable as McNichol's two decisions in the $10,000 buncoer the man to whose incumbency of the Mayor's secretaryship he had silently submitted for more than a year, Reyburn vehemently blurted out the startling intimation that his desk in the Mayor's office had been "tampered with" by Kaufmann, who, he said, was the only person besides himself who had the key for that piece of furniture.

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