

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 12, 1890.

The committee on Rules, to whom was referred the order offered by Mr. Williams of Dedham for the appointment of a committee to investigate the methods adopted to secure the passage of the West End Elevated Railroad bill and other elevated railroad bills, report as follows:—

After giving several hearings to Mr. Williams, the following written statement was presented by him to the committee at its request.

Upon the order submitted to the House by me and referred to the committee on Rules, I offer to show,—

1st. That the West End Railway Company has maintained a large corps of lobbyists and legislative counsel, and made expenditures through them and its officers beyond any legitimate purpose in securing legislation.

2d. That the officers and agents of said company have given numerous banquets and dinners to members of the Legislature, and that while some of the members were under the influence of wine and liquors, there furnished, the merits of the plans of said company have been presented to them.

3d. That carriages have been furnished and paid for by the agents of said company to convey members to and from such dinners, and that hotel lodgings of members have also been so paid for.

4th. That members of the House have, on behalf of said company and on the floor of the House, extended the invitations to other members to attend such banquets.

5th. That a House member of the committee on Street Railways has consulted with two or more of the petitioning

elevated railway companies with reference to giving his support to each of such companies, and is now sustaining the West End Elevated Railway bill.

6th. That the West End Company, or its representatives, have since last year's session of the Legislature paid money to other petitioners for an elevated railway, to prevent a renewal of their petition.

7th. That a member of the House has called upon a representative of one of the petitioning companies and asked him whether there was anything in it for him.

8th. That counsel for the West End Railway Company requested of the Speaker of the House that he appoint certain persons on the street railway committee, which persons were not appointed.

I also have had evidence offered me which I wish to submit to a committee authorized to administer oaths, tending to show —

1st. That one or more members of the House have asked compensation of elevated railway petitioners for their support.

2d. That members of the House have received money from agents of the West End Railway Company.

GEO. FRED. WILLIAMS.

This committee has had no evidence submitted to it, as Mr. Williams declined to disclose the evidence or the names of witnesses supporting his statement until he appeared before a committee of investigation. While therefore this committee is unable to pass upon the weight or competency of any testimony in support of the above statements, and while this committee expresses no opinion as to whether all of the charges above set forth are of such a serious character as to demand investigation it believes that, upon the basis of the above statements presented by a member of the House which among other things reflect upon the integrity of members of the House, an investigation should be ordered.

The committee therefore reports that the order ought to pass in a new draft herewith submitted.

For the Committee,

WM. D. SOHIER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 12, 1890.

*Ordered*, That a special committee be appointed to consist of seven (7) members of the House to inquire into the methods used for and against applications for legislation concerning elevated railroads, and to inquire into the conduct of members of the House in connection therewith. Said committee shall have authority to send for persons and papers and shall have authority to employ a stenographer and report in print.

