

INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

September 20, 1946

Dear Friend:

The Independent Voters of Illinois is entering now upon a vigorous campaign on behalf of our candidates and principles in the Third Congressional District. We hope to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion on November 5 and emerge with strongly organized IVI units in each ward of the district. That is a big program and we are not over-supplied with time in which to accomplish it.

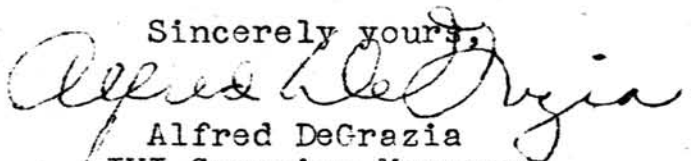
You know already, doubtless, that we have a first-rate candidate for Congresswoman-at-large, Emily Taft Douglas whom we should exert all our powers to re-elect. And you know that we must gather all the vital and progressive forces in the community to defeat Busby, who though possessed of a reactionary and inferior record, is making a strong bid for the seat of Congressman Edward A. Kelly from the Third District.

Beyond these ~~tasks~~ we must build IVI to a position comparable to its place in other neighborhoods of Chicago, so that you will have infinitely more to say about what candidates are to be chosen by the parties and who of them will be finally elected. Even more than that, the knowledge that a watchful and organized independent group stands back home is the best single check on the Congressman as he casts his vote in Washington.

Neither you nor I can do much alone. But we can do more together, and the more of us there are the more we can do. We need you as active members; we need financial contributions, large or small; we need everyone to pass the word around that we welcome members, help of any sort, and an independent, informed vote on election day.

We are planning a general district meeting soon to which you will all be invited. But, meanwhile, please do all you can to get the ball rolling in your neighborhoods. Let us know if you need help or information. You can reach Mrs. Verna Siegrist, the Third District Steering Committee Chairman, at 6549 S. Harvard, Wentworth 5855, or myself at 123 W. Madison St., Dearborn 6090.

Sincerely yours,



Alfred DeGrazia  
IVI Campaign Manager

Third Congressional District

P.S. If you would like to attend a precinct workers' school to be held at the end of this month and have not already registered for it, call IVI at Dearborn 6090 to do so.

REPORT ON  
THE CAMPAIGN OF EDWARD A. KELLY FOR  
CONGRESS IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Alfred DeGrazia  
at request of Lillian Inke

Edward A. Kelly is running for re-election to Congress in a district which, with some justice, he describes as normally Republican, though he has been a Congressman fourteen years. Little independent spirit exists in the area and there is usually an apathy towards politics. The labor vote is not strong and the lower middle class is predominant. The same amount of effort on behalf of independent civic activities produces less results than in the Ninth, Tenth, & Second Districts to my personal knowledge. Although IVI has received considerable applause for its part in electing Kelly to Congress in 1944, the same incentives for independent work do not presently exist, the declaration of peace and the death of Roosevelt conjointly weakening the liberal motivation. Mr. Kelly has felt this trend and believes, though he is not explicit, that the election this year will pivot about the body of disgusted apolitical voters and not around the disgusted liberals. The people he must worry about for re-election are the indoctrinated wives of businessmen, the sellers with nothing to sell, and the material-less builders and skilled AF OFL workers, together with the Anglo-phobes and the Russo-phobes whose slander can be more vociferous under the peace.

Therefore, Kelly feels that IVI backing is not important. It may in fact cause more harm than good because of the reputation of some of its people as "Reds." Although other districts are perhaps more immune to such labels, the 3rd District reacts strongly to them. He harbors resentment against IVI, too, for having "approached Arvey with a request to dump Kelly" along with CIO-PAC.

The Congressman is definitely running for office but not very efficiently. In many respects he is behind the campaign of Mr. Busbey. He is not confident at all of winning the election. He is attending ward meetings, mailing out a speech defending his un-progressive votes in Congress, and making large numbers of personal calls through the medium of wakes and funerals. He has no literature worth mentioning, and is belatedly putting out posters.

These conditions determine the framework within which IVI must work. It is agreed, Kelly or no, that a certain amount of persistent effort must go into organizing IVI in the District. It is also agreed that Mrs. Douglas can be supported by IVI in the District, because her strength springs from somewhat different sources from

that of Mr. Kelly, even if we grant Mr. Kelly's opinion of IVI's effect in the district. The question then is principally: How shall IVI behave towards Mr. Kelly?

Mr. Kelly is as likely to lose as to win. If he wins IVI will bear the same relation to him as hitherto. He will feel justified in his independency of the Administration on those several issues in which he was conservative and will not be especially attentive to liberals or to IVI for the strength it has shown. IVI will have considerable difficulty finding workers to canvass vigorously for Kelly. Some opposition to the idea has been expressed already. They wouldn't mind concentrating on Douglas in their canvassing or meetings. In Office, Kelly will be liberal in his voting only on quiet issues or where led by a strong Administration ~~on~~ which he feels is inspiring his constituents. He has no basic consistent philosophy which invariably makes him feel the liberal position. Any efforts taken to build up a new candidate would occur under considerable criticism from him, and would be generally embarrassing. No glory would come from his victory.

If he loses, IVI will have openly backed a loser and the lost cause will not be a great honor. A new candidate can be built up during the next period and the loss will not be felt strongly in the national liberal leadership. The next Congress will indubitably be managed by the same coalition that managed the last. The liberals are most useful if they are standard-bearers, not privates in the party line. The loss therefore will not be significant nationally, except as Mr. Busby might contribute leadership to the Republican reaction, and the Democratic character of the district, once lost, might never be regained. The last need not be considered, for in MR. Busby's potentialities for evil lies our dilemma.

The following recommendation cannot satisfy every consideration. It is that IVI, in partial agreement with Mr. Kelly's ideas and to conserve its own forces, not campaign openly--be it placarding, parades, publicity or canvassing,--for Kelly but to assist him otherwise, it can ask its members to vote for him (as they have already been instructed); aid in getting publicity releases for Mr. Kelly on the Tucker Torpedoe automobile plant in the District which he was instrumental in locating here; publicize a statement against the island airport proposal which the IVI campaign manager is writing and which Kelly will approve; print and circulate a leaflet through Democratic and IVI channels to veterans in the District comparing the Kelly record and the Busby one; and furnish as many poll watchers in the 13th Ward as possible since Flynn may not insure Kelly a complete and accurate count. Additional matters may come up from time to time where IVI can help Kelly without overextending itself.

For the rest of IVI work in the 3rd District, a slow process of adding to membership is in order. Public opinion in the District is hardly inflammable and education in independence is a prerequisite for organizing in the District. That means many months of patient unrewarding work before IVI can have as many as a score of active workers in each ward and a popular conception of IVI's role in the community.

Emily Taft Douglas can be helped by parlor meetings and canvassing especially in the 19th Ward and suburban areas. There is probably no District issue which would justify a special District leaflet on her behalf. John M. Lee and the other Democrats will take care of themselves well enough, though we will circularize our support of them where it is expedient. CIO is taking care of the industrial working class areas in the District.

It is recommended that the present IVI offices and office secretary be retained for at least the duration of the campaign. They are essential for a campaign headquarters and for building up a large and true mailing list of members and prospects.

She can encourage parlor meetings and educational meetings (FILMS, lectures, etc.) which will provide IVI with increasing strength and prestige in the district and she can work up a good deal of local material for use later on. To move out the office materials and secretary now would be wasteful and physically most inconvenient in view of the crowded condition of the downtown office. It would probably be wise in the near future to engage a permanent office convenient to both the Second and Third Congressional District but the considerations in such a proposal are beyond the scope of the present report.

Steering Comm.

Chairman - Verma Siegrist  
(probably 15th Wd.)

Finance -

Publicity - Max Sonderly

Office Mgr. -

Ward Leaders -

Ward Leaders

3rd Ward - Rayfield Wooley  
Rev. Wm.

13th Ward - McZill 2008 W. 68th St.  
Rep. 0692

14th Ward - Joseph Novak

15th Ward - Mrs. Gant

16th Ward - ?

17th " - Verma Siegrist & Sylvester Pizinski

18th " -

19th " - Laura Moses & Max Sonderly

- Sidney S. Cohen (Sibley, Elz. Co.)  
34 E. 155th St.  
Riverdale 424

Harvey

Hosmer & Woodward - Carl Johnson  
(curator of Field Museum)

Peloe Park - Ora Babb  
125th & 92nd Ave.  
Box 85

Riverdale - Alice Erhard

Cheo Heights - J. D. Capps P.A. 219

Liaison

Negro

Ernest Rose

16th Ward

Mrs. Cash - hswife  
husband is porter

or

Willoughby Abner  
17th Ward

## Political Analysis

The Third Congressional District is the Southwest part of Chicago and Cook County. It polled ~~about~~ 305,000 votes in 1944, about one-third of the total state vote. Its population is increasing, especially in the 19th Ward and in the Southern & Western Townships. Negroes are infiltrating in the North and rooming house areas are developing in the 61-69th Street East-West axis, with political repercussions in the wards concerned, the 17th, 16th, 15th and 13th. The result is a long term trend towards the Democratic Party <sup>beginning</sup> in the Northern areas of the district and an outcropping of Democratic voters in suburbs and the 19th Ward, hitherto ~~almost~~ solidly Republican.

However, present sentiment in the district remains Republican, if not in observable voting majorities at least in attitudes. Home ownership, high income and national ~~ownership~~ <sup>origin</sup> help explain this sentiment. <sup>German</sup> Irish <sup>resent</sup> are found in large numbers in the 16th and 18th wards, and contribute heavily to the Republican ranks. The fifth ward of the 13th ward are much more Democratic in sentiment. Even where the Irish vote Democratic, they

do so more from tradition and  
"bread-and-butter politics" than from  
liberal convictions. And therefore, one  
cannot expect a high incidence of  
liberalism ~~with~~ in connection with the  
high Democratic vote, for liberalism is  
more a matter of split tickets than  
straight tickets except in periods of  
depression.

Plan of Campaign  
3rd Cong. Dist.  
Sept. 10 - Nov. 5, 1946

*containing 1/2 of the total state vote*

The Third Congressional District is less compact and neighborly than most. There is hardly any tradition of independent political activity save among women's clubs in the South. Meetings of a political nature have generally been poorly attended. For example, Scott Lucas, in a 1944 appearance at Lindbloom High School, drew a very small crowd. And even IVI members who will work are often absent at meetings. The present campaign is more than ordinarily dull. Therefore, our plan of campaign is set up to spoon-feed the district rather than to expect voluntary enthusiasm.

The third District is now organized for IVI as follows:

1. A steering committee for the campaign composed of Mrs. Verna Siegrist as chairman, Max Sonderby as publicity chief, a financial officer, a secretary who will also manage the office, the ward chairmen of the district ex officio, and the Campaign Manager ex officio. They will direct policy, maintain liaison with downtown IVI, and administer the campaign.
2. The basic unit for the campaign for this election will be the ward, and there is a ward chairman who will be responsible for the administration of any part of the campaign falling in his ward. There are eight ward leaders. In addition, the townships will have chairmen.
3. The problem of relations, cooperation from specific groups throughout the district will be assigned to liaison workers, one each to Labor, Regular Democratic organizations, Veterans, Church Groups, Civic Organizations, Nationalities, an Independent Business and Professional Committee to Defeat Busby, and two to the two widely separated Negro areas. These workers will operate out of the central steering committee of IVI for the District.
4. Other IVI members in the District will work under their ward chairmen unless special skills are needed elsewhere. Present indications are that we shall not be able to make the number of active IVI members increase beyond a dozen members in each ward. If we can attain a dozen members in each ward, we will have an effective working group.
5. Inactive members and sympathetic non-members will be used as much as possible on specific assignments and routine.

Campaign Calendar:

	<u>Publicity</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>other</u>
Sept. 18		15th Wd.	
Sept. 19	Letter to Members	.	
" 20		19th Wd	
" 26		District	
?	Regis. Canvass		
?	Kelly throw-away		
?	Douglas "		
?	2 leaflets on Busby		

Sound truck for Douglas (2 days)

**PLAN OF CAMPAIGN**  
**Independent Voters of Illinois**  
**Third Congressional District**

**September 10 - November 5, 1946**

**I. Candidates to be supported**

**II. Other Issues**

**III. Organization of IVI in the 3rd Congressional District**

**IV. Political Analysis of District**

**V. Plan of Campaign**

**I. Candidates to be supported.**

1. For Congresswoman-at-Large Emily Taft Douglas. Will probably run stronger than Kelly in district because of more consistent voting record, better political personality, and strong women's support, not to mention better publicity. Will, however, risk same reaction against ineffective national administration as will Kelly with a possible "disgust non-voting" among liberals and labor people.
2. For Congressman Edward A. Kelly. Has a consistently good record with however a recent series of alarming votes, resulting in some apathy on the part of liberal supporters, but with a possible reduction of losses if attendant publicity emphasizes strong Republican areas. Not a good speaker, satisfactory in face-to-face relationships, impatient with do-good groups, loyal to traditional machine friends but now considered by some of them to have erred somewhat. His plan of campaign has not yet taken shape. IVI will tend towards "Defeat Busby" in its Kelly campaign.
3. For State Senator John M. Lee. Has an excellent record in legislature. Reliable and sound on labor issues. As Committeeman of 18th Ward, has built strong organization. Runs a very efficient mechanical campaign (posters, cards, etc.) Does not have to contend with certain Republican areas in 19th Ward that Kelly must face.

Plan of Campaign Independent Voters of Illinois  
3rd Congressional District  
Sept. 10 - November 5, 1946

1. Candidates to be supported

For Congressman, 3rd District - Congressman Edw. A. Kelly  
For Congressman-at-Large - Congresswoman Emily Taft Douglas  
For State Senator (11th Dist.) - John M. Lee, Incumbent  
For State Rep. " " - Michael E. Hannigan  
George A. Fitzgerald

In support of the Gateway Amendment  
" " " " Veterans' Bonus

2. A second and equally important objective- To establish IVI firmly in Dist.

3. Organization of IVI in 3rd District

- a. Central Committee -----/ Steering Comm.
- b. Ward Leaders Chrman.- Central liason
- c. Liason workers Finance  
a. With regular party leaders Publicity  
b. With labor groups Camp.Mgr.(ex officio)  
c. With Veterans centralliason  
d. With church groups Office Mgr.  
e. With civic organizations
- f. With Independent Business & Professional Comm. to defeat Busby
- d. Active IVI members (assigned to wards or to work for  
A. Negro cent. comm. if need and skills warrant)  
Includes canvassers, clerks, watchers, reporters, speakers,  
entertainers (house meetings, teas, etc.)
- e. Inactive members: including all those whose interest in  
liberal politics or IVI has ever been expressed in any  
form. These must shoulder as much routine as they can  
be persuaded to accept. They must not be given crucial  
contact work unless execution can be insured.

f. Ad hoc committees- for stunts, particular campaigns

4. Description of District : peculiarities, composition of population, centers of Rep. and Dem. strength and of Independent voting, changes occurring,

5. Racial and Nationality groups: Negro  
Irish  
Leadership and activities German  
Lithuanian  
Italian

6. Labor unions and other organizations

Names, leaders, activities in district.

7. Veterans Organizations

Names, leaders, membership, activities.

## Plan of Campaign (2)

Oct. 29

Genl. Dist. Meeting

Parade

?

Nov. 7

Summary of campaign and instructions for  
continuing IVI activities.

Not included above are the occasional distribution of literature for the various candidates, the activities of all cooperating organizations stimulated, inspired or conducted by IVI, 3rd District, fund drive, conferences, subsequent ward meetings, and mail correspondence which is important in this kind of district. Nor does it include any of the activities of the Indep. Bus. and Prof. Comm. to Defeat Busby.

Additions and more definite dates will be furnished in weekly reports, along with political analysis of the District.

The minimum financial backing which should be assured the Third Congressional District effort is \$450, covering minimum printing, phone calls, and rent, but not the services of a typist-clerk.

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Alfred DeGrazia  
Campaign Manager  
Third District

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3rd Cong. Dist.  
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?			Sound truck for Douglas (2 days
?			Phone chain

We would like this message to go especially to

# VETERANS

of the 3rd Congressional District  
because the elections of November 5 are  
**YOUR BIG CHANCE to vote:**

**against the man who was one of the clique  
that made it impossible for many soldiers  
overseas to vote.**

**against the man who voted in Congress  
against providing working mothers with  
nurseries for their children during the  
war.**

**against the man who wanted to keep American  
troops from landing in Europe during the  
war, thus prolonging the war indefinitely  
and exposing our country to direct attack.  
You would probably still be waiting in  
some swamp or frozen waste for the end if  
he had succeeded.**

**against the man who is so fanatic and  
berserk on The Russian question that he  
absolutely cannot be trusted to keep us  
out of another war.**

The man with this inferior record is: **BUSHY**  
During his two years in Congress while  
most of the young men were in the armed  
forces, 1942-44, he had a voting record  
that made Rankin of Mississippi look  
like a progressive.

CONGRESSMAN

EDWARD A. KELLY

REALLY REPRESENTS THE THIRD DISTRICT

He has fought constantly and vigorously to prevent war profiteering, and is now pushing the veterans' housing program.

He has already helped reconversion and full production in very important ways. He was instrumental, for example, in getting the Tucker Torpedo Automobile factories located in the 3rd District, thereby providing future good employment for thousands of veterans.

He has an independent record in Congress and has the support of independent groups like the Independent Voters of Illinois, of all labor groups and of the Democratic Party.

He has a 100% perfect record on veteran's affairs, is an overseas veteran himself and has two veteran sons.

VOTE FOR ED KELLY FOR CONGRESS

The man with this interior record is HURLEY. Our security and prosperity are at stake. Most of our men were in the armed forces, 1942-44, he had a voting record that made Rankin of Mississippi look like a progressive.

(OVER) 2