Dr. William J. Thompkins and Harry S. Truman: The Evolution of the Democratic Party, 1924-1948
Dr. Jon E. Taylor
Dr. William J. Thompkins
Elks Official Heads Smith Colored League

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 23.—(AP)—Dr. William J. Thompkins of Kansas City, commissioner of health of the improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, has been appointed regional director of the Smith-for-President Colored League for Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Tennessee, with headquarters in St. Louis.

Doctor Thompkins had charge of the negro bureau in Chicago during the presidential campaign in 1924.
1926 Assistant Commissioner of Health of KC

In appointing Dr. Thompkins, the Director of Health, Dr. Ernest Caviness, said, “I selected the Doctor because of his special fitness for this work, and his outstanding reputation as an Organization and Institutional man. This is the largest field in the health of a great city. The record of Dr. Thompkins in handling the Flu and Smallpox epidemic of 1919 and 1921, is outstanding. His control of the Venereal situation in the protection of the Soldiers of Camp Funston during the war, was ideal.”

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 13.—Dr. William J. Thompkins, a leading surgeon of Kansas City, appointed Assistant Commissioner of Health of Kansas City in the Department of Hygiene and Communicable Diseases. This is the first time that this position has been filled by a member of our group. This position will cover a work of establishing clinics and emergencies throughout the city, including all epidemics, and also the establishment of special clinics for Tubercular patients. Supervision of the health condition of all school children.
Tom Pendergast and Truman
1932 Presidential Election and the Pendergast Machine

JAMES A. REED

FARLEY AND ROOSEVELT
NEGRO DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS
MAKE BID FOR CONTROL OF CAMPAIGN SET-UP; RESULT UNDECIDED

THREE POWERFUL ORGANIZATIONS STRENUOUSLY SEEK TO CARRY BANNER OF ROOSEVELT-GARNER NOMINATION

National Colored Democratic Association
Dr. W. J. Thompkins as President
Farley’s visit to KC September, 1933

Farley Assures Missouri Democrats Of The ‘New Deal’s’ Interest In Them
Dr. William J. Thompkins of Kansas City being sworn in as the Recorder of Deeds at Washington. Left to right: Senator George McGill, Democrat, from Kansas; Representative Ralph Lozier, Democrat, from Missouri; Dr. Thompkins, taking oath; Joseph Johnson; Edwin Halsey, secretary of the Senate; Clerk Cunningham of the Supreme Court; J. B. Evans, Bishop John A. Gregg and Rev. William Thomas.
Truman’s 1934 Senate Campaign

Friday, May 18, 1934

189th day—227 days to come

3:44
V.15 by Ind. Del 392
P.120 Ind. Del. 403
Sam Howell, Hamilton, OK
O. H. Burks, OK
Dave Simms, Tow
Judge Hinkle, OK

6:00 Boonville 518

W. E. Russon, Judge of Young, MO
T. L. Clanton, MO
M. S. Harris, MO

9:00 A.M. Fulton
F. D. Parker, Yau
W. E. Taylor, OK
W. B. Whitley, OK
J. W. Johnson, OK
President of Young, MO

10:00 A.M. Fulton Pr 207

10:15 Columbia Mi 602

Mrs. Hines, cures instrument.
J. E. Reed, bond counsel.

7:00 PM Columbia Mi 695

8:00 P.M. Gas. Sug. 1.61
Mile 1544

Saturday, May 19, 1934

189th day—226 days to come

9:00 A.M. Fulton
F. D. Parker, Yau
W. E. Taylor, OK
W. B. Whitley, OK
J. W. Johnson, OK
President of Young, MO

10:00 A.M. Fulton Pr 207

10:45 Columbia Mi 602

Mrs. Hines, cures instrument.
J. E. Reed, bond counsel.

11:00 A.M. Columbia Mi 603

Mile 1544
Thursday, June 14, 1934
168th day—320 days to come
4315 L.H. 11:10 A.M.
4382 L.D. 11 P.M.
Saw all the women in the 6th District. Made a talk on Campaign Contests.

Friday, June 15, 1934
169th day—319 days to come
4303 R.H. 6:56 A.M.
4376 R.H. 8:00 A.M.
Saw Dr. Allen, Booth of Allen newspaper man at Buffalo, N.Y.
Wrote Dr. W.H. Allen.
Arrived, saw some of above.
4470 N.East. 10 A.M. 5 S.P.M.
Good meeting. Introduced by person named people from Hillard, and Quinlan, and Toney country.

Friday, July 6, 1934
187th day—178 days to come
7633 East 8:00 A.M.
7641 N.East 9:00 A.M.
7677 Excelsior Springs 9:45 A.M.
11:15 Went to Mrs. Flanders and met very leader in town.
7805 Columbia 7:00 P.M.
Speech 9 P.M.
Negroes 9 P.M.
Dance 9:30 P.M.
Two Opening Campaign speeches in Sedalia June 15, 1940

Dedicate Ground For Hospital

Entrance To City Hospital No. 2

The above is a drawing by Hal Lynch, architect, of the proposed entrance to City Hospital No. 2, for Negroes, which will be erected in Hubbard Park.
The first speech  
Sedalia June 15, 1940

Dr. William Thompkins, Negro, recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C., was introduced and gave an excellent talk in which he praised the work of Junior Senator Harry S. Truman from Missouri, in an introduction of the senator.

Senator Truman did not deliver a political address, giving a most interesting dedicatory talk to the Negroes of Sedalia in which he praised highly their accomplishments in the past several years. He told of their present-day advantages in education, business, and public life, and of their present day status in public affairs.
“I believe in the brotherhood of man; not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before law. I believe in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. In giving to the Negroes the rights that are theirs, we are only acting in accord with our ideals of a true democracy. If any class or race can be permanently set apart from, or pushed down below, the rest in political and civil rights, so may any other class or race when it shall incur the displeasure of its more powerful associates, and we may say farewell to the principles on which we count our safety.”
Truman for ‘Equal Rights’ Condemns Injustices in Speech Opening Campaign for Reelection to Senate
The second campaign speech
Sedalia June 15, 1940

Senator Truman's Rally Crowd On Court House Lawn

Helpful Relations
"The relation of colored and white people in this community and this state is one that should be given our interest and attention. We all desire to see proper and helpful relations exist between all classes of people. Certainly there should be no injustice, no contemptuous or unfair treatment allotted by any class to any other class. Most of all, the stronger group should not impose upon the weaker obnoxious conditions or situations. In all matters of progress and welfare, of economic opportunity and equal rights before law, Negroes deserve every aid and protection."

People Source of Power
Negro Democrats to Hear Farley

HON. JAMES A. FARLEY

Delegates to the National Colored Democratic Association will hear Postmaster General James A. Farley during their three-day session July 12, 13, 14.

Other prominent Democrats who have accepted invitations to speak at the mass meeting are Senators Alben W. Barkley, Kentucky, Democratic majority leader of the Senate; William H. Smathers, New Jersey; Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma; Harry S. Truman, Missouri; Sherman Minton, Indiana; Joseph F. Guffey, Pennsylvania, and Congressman Jack Nichols, Oklahoma, as well as Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, Democratic National Committeewoman of Pennsylvania.
The Legacy VP & President 1944-1953
To Secure These Rights, 1947 and Freedom to Serve, 1950

To Secure These Rights

Freedom to Serve
Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services
Jon E. Taylor

A President, a Church, and Trails West: Competing Histories in Independence, Missouri

Critical Moments in American History: Freedom to Serve
Truman, Civil Rights, and Executive Order 9981

Jon Taylor