

SENATE CHAMBER  
WASHINGTON.

11 June 1888.

Dear Sir:-

In considering your nomination for Chief Justice it has been thought proper to inform you that it has been very recently alleged in a communication to us (the name of the writer of which the Senate rules forbid us to disclose) that you

“Concocted & carried out a scheme to take from the funds of the West Chicago Park Board \$103,000.00 when \$30,000.00 would have been ample compensation for the owner of the land, taken for a Boulevard in connection with the West Side Park. This land is fifteen acres in the south one half (S. ½) of Section 25, town 39, range 13, Cook County, Illinois. Mr. Geo. W. Lay was the owner & only wanted \$2,000.00 per acre for it; but was reduced about April or May 1885 to let it be put into the West Chicago Park at \$103,000.00. Mr. Lay did not get more than half of the \$103,000.00 for his own use. Five thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars of that sum went either to Mr. Fuller or one of the clerks in his office as a fee. The money was paid out through the Chicago National Bank & the then treasurer of the West Chicago Park Board whose name I don't know. I think it was Mason who paid out the money.”

It is also alleged in the case of Kerr v. South Park Commissioners,

“That by reason of his [your] position & influence as jury commissioner of the United States, he [you] managed to get that jury put in charge of bailiff J.J. Douglass, who never before nor ever since has had change of a jury in the United States court. That jury was sent out in charge of Douglass to visit the grounds & that while viewing the grounds he caused the jury to be separated for Mr. Fuller and six of the jurors were placed when a man employed by Fuller had charge of them & who used his influence with the six jurors so separated to induce them to bring in an improper verdict.”

It has also been alleged that when the record in the case of Doolittle TC v. Forsyth was being made up in the circuit court for transmission to the Supreme Court here, you asked Mr. N.H. King, the attorney of Forsyth not to include in the record the fact that you were acting as jury commissioner at the time the jury was drawn, some of whom, it is alleged, were jurors in the Doolittle case.

SENATE CHAMBER  
WASHINGTON.

Any statement you may think it proper to make in reference to these subjects the committee will be glad to receive.

Very respectfully yours,

George Edmunds  
Chairman of Committee on  
the judiciary U.S. Senate

Hon. Melville W. Fuller  
Chicago, Ill.