

LESLIE J. LYONS.

LETTER

FROM

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

RESPONDING

TO HOUSE RESOLUTION ASKING COPY OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST
LESLIE J. LYONS, UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, SAYING, "BY THE DIRECTION
OF THE PRESIDENT, IN HIS OPINION, IT IS NOT COMPATIBLE
WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO FURNISH THE INFORMATION
DESIRED."

MARCH 14, 1912.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1912.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I am in receipt of the following resolution adopted by the
House of Representatives March 12, 1912, viz:

Resolved, That the Attorney General of the United States be, and he is hereby
directed, if not incompatible with public interest, to transmit forthwith to the House
of Representatives a copy of the charges filed against Leslie J. Lyons, United States
District Attorney of the western district of Missouri, together with the report of Arthur
T. Bagley, special agent detailed by the Department of Justice to investigate said
charges, and a statement of the action of the Department of Justice, if any, upon said
charges and report.

By direction of the President, I beg to say that, in my opinion, it
is not compatible with the public interest to transmit to the House
of Representatives a copy of the charges filed against Mr. Lyons, nor
any reports of special agents concerning the same. Many, if not all
of the matters which are the subject of these charges are involved in
direct proceedings brought in the State court at Kansas City, Mo.,
and now pending, against Mr. Lyons, and until those proceedings are
determined—unless there should be a failure to duly and promptly
prosecute them—I have considered that justice to Mr. Lyons requires
that no action be taken by the Department of Justice with respect
thereto.

Respectfully,

GEO. W. WICKERSHAM,
Attorney General.