

TRIES TO OUST TWO OFFICIALS

Road Commissioners Deny Charges

HELENA, Mont., Oct. 29.—(AP)—Two Montana highway commissioners answered "absolutely false" and "sour grapes" today to Gov. Elmer Holt's move to oust them from office for alleged illegal collection of mileage, per diem and expense money from the state.

The governor issued an order to the commission, consisting of Dr. H. J. McGregor, Great Falls, chairman, and Rockwood Brown, Billings, and L. J. Croonenberghs, Missoula, to show cause November 5 why the three board members should not be removed.

The governor said investigation is under way of "persistent reports" of other alleged "malfeasance," and said he expected "supplemental charges" to be filed against the board.

"It's just another case of pre-election sour grapes," was Chairman McGregor's terse comment. Commissioner Brown said:

"Governor Holt is trying to use his high office to try to punish state officials who did not support him in the primaries and the statements and charges made by him are absolutely false."

No statement was available from Croonenberghs.

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