

William Allen White to Clyde Reed

William Allen White writes to Clyde Reed, Secretary to Governor Henry Allen, about the proposed Industrial Court Bill. White asks that consideration be given to road construction in the fact that counties are only allotted so much money for road construction but the government specifications require more expensive bridges than counties can afford. Also, White informs Reed that the labor conciliation bill that's being drafted must fit the negative feeling the general public had for the labor unions as well as for any future change of attitude that the public would develop.

Creator: White, William Allen, 1868-1944

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Callnumber: Governors Office Correspondence Governor Henry J. Allen Box 14, Folder Legislative Session 1919

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THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

DAILY AND WEEKLY

W. A. WHITE, EDITOR AND OWNER

W. E. HUGHES, MANAGER

EMPORIA KANSAS

December 3, 1919.

Dear Clyde:

When the Governor calls his special session of the Legislature, here is one thing which he ought to include in the call. The authorization for counties, constructing hard surfaced roads to build bridges to conform with the Government's specifications at a cost to exceed twenty five hundred dollars. The present law limits the amount of money the county can spend upon a bridge, excepting under a special election, or a legislative act authorizing the building. Three or four counties, possibly more in the state, are up against this proposition. They must construct one or two bridges each in conformity with the government's specifications in order to get government aid on the road. The government specification calls for a more expensive bridge than the law authorizes. The Highway Commission will be able to furnish you with the names of the counties that are thus hampered. Lyon County is one.

Another thing, in drafting your labor conciliation bill, you must remember that it will be used in times when public sentiment will be more nearly with the labor unions than it is today. We are naturally in the midst of a reaction against labor

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unions because of the rather stupid action of the leaders of the coal miners in this district. There is, as you know, much bitterness among the people and a desire to punish the union labor leaders. This bitterness may result in drafting a law which would be so offensive to labor that it would not get anywhere if enacted. Such a law easily could be jammed through the legislature and I think on the whole you would have to put brakes on to keep such a law from being enacted. But I wish you would urge the Governor for me, with all the enthusiasm possible, to do just exactly that thing; to put on the brakes and see that only a fair law is passed such a law as would be acceptable to labor under normal conditions, and will not put a perennial punishment onto labor because of the present abnormal conditions.

The Emporia Hospital is out of coal. If it is in conformity with the Governor's plans to look after certain emergency institutions first, I would suggest that he see to this institution at once. Please call his attention to it for me. I am going away to be gone two weeks, and hope to be back in time for the fireworks.

Truly and sincerely yours,

Mr. Clyde Reed,
Governor's Office,
Topeka, Kansas.



WAW/MA.