

## **R.H. Smith to Senator Arthur Capper**

This letter from R. H. Smith of Sedan, Kansas, discusses Smith's concerns over the fate of the U.S. in the postwar era. Arguing that the government will need to be streamlined, Smith pleads with Senator Capper to get Congress to reassert its authority in order to repeal many of the wartime measures adopted under the Roosevelt Administration.

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R. F. SMITH, PROPRIETOR

Sedan, Kansas

July 23, 1943

Senator Arthur Capper

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Senator:

After listning to your talk over the radio a few evenings back and hearing your plea for the citizens of the state to write you their opinæons, I felt it my duty to do this very thing. As much as I dislike to write letters, I feel that it is the duty of every one to try and exert every effort to keep this a free nation.

You spoke of Post-war planning. I think the main thing now is to win this war and when this job is done there will be plenty of time to plan for the future. The first thing that should be done when the war is over is to do away absolutely and completely with Bureamcracy and give the country back to the people and make this a free nation once again. We may have some duty to the rest of the world, I don't deny that but if we go to try telling other countries what to do when this war is over, they may stand it for a while as long as they need our help, but they will eventually resent it and the first thing we know we will find ourselves in a lot worse mess than we are in now and Lord knows this one is bad enough.

As I see it now, what is needed most of all is to stream-line the government at Washington. Get rid of a lot of those alphabetical bureaus with their thousands of employes. Put them to useful war work or in the army and it will go a long way twoards relieving the man-power shortage. They have agriculture and all kinds of buisness now so hamstrung with rules and regulations that no one knows what to do or what they can do. Ill bet there would be a big jump in production especially in agriculture if people were given a free hand to do as they seemfit. The people are willing to do anything they can to win this war, I talk to lots of them, but it is dishartning to pay high taxes and buy bonds then see the Bureaucrats in Washington waste money by the hundreds of millions. People are willing to sacrifice most anything if it will be used to help win the war or help our soldiers but they don't like for those fellows there to waste it.





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The OPA is one of the worst monstrosities that has ever been foisted on an unsuspecting people. No wonder Lou Maxon resigned and he is to be commended for some inside information as to what is going on there. I see from good authority that the OPA has on its pay rolls 2,756 lawyers, possibly more by now, most of them young fellows just out of college with no practical experience. No wonder the thing is tied up with rules, regulations and red tape till it is unworkable. Seems to me it is the nearest thing to a theorist heaven one could expect to find. Why woul'dnt these young fellows do the country more good helping the other boys fight this war. It seems strange to me that after men in industry, buisness, and men on our farms have built this nation up to where it is the greatest industrial nation in all history, that now they have to be regulated and watched by an army of people that know practically nothing about buisness. I believe they would be just as loyal and work a lot harder for the war effort without all this terrific waste of tax-payers money. Of course it would not build up as big a political machine which looks like was the original intention. I see by the papers now that they are recruiting an army of 180,000 spotters to watch motorists to see that they use their rationed gasoline properly. I suppose they figure it will mean that many more votes for next election. Anyway if a man is given so much gasoline and he don't use it properly it hurts him worse than any one else so why watch him.

This thing of a subsidy to roll back prices is very foolish. If the producers of commodities have to have higher prices, lets pay them now and to them instead of later in higher taxes with all the administration costs and intrest added on. I will venture to say that for every penny that is subsidised now we will pay 10¢ in taxes later. In the early part of the Roosevelt administration there was put into effect everything of an inflationary measure they could think of, against the warnings of the buisness and conservitive men of the country. Now they are using the stop inflation cry to get control of all buisness and complete controll of the country.

It is very gratifying to note in the last few months that Congress is showing a tendency to assert its power. I hope this continues as I believe there are a lot more practical and capable men in both houses of Congress than there is in any of those bureaus. Men that can do a lot better job of running this war and the country. So stay right in there and fight, we want you fellows to know that we the people are behind you. You will make mistakes of course but not near so many mistakes as has been made by the ones who have been delegated so much power. We expect you to stand between us and a government of bureaucracy or possibly dictatorship.





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When our boys come home from this war, we want them to come back to a free America as they once knew it so they will not feel like they have fought and many of them died in vain.

Now that I have got the above off my chest, I want you to know that on your return to Washington we bid you Godspeed. We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the people of your state. I hope that every Senator and Representative in Congress will feel like the nation is depending on them especially in these trying times. The people if given a chance will not let you down and they will do everything in their power to help win this war contrary to the cry that has been coming from administration circles in Washington that we are hindering the war effort. I think most of the people are a lot more interested in winning this war and getting it over with than some of high ups in the inner circle are.

If you have bore with me this far I thank you for the priveledge of writing. So with best wishes I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

*R.H. Smith*