

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 121, Pages 3601 - 3630

This is correspondence to and from newspaper editor and publisher Frederick W. Brinkerhoff. The bulk of letters date from the 1940s and 1950s. His first newspaper job was with the Ottawa Herald, after which he worked for the Fort Scott Republican, Chanute Sun, Chanute Tribune, Kansas City Star, Pittsburg Headlight, and the Pittsburg Sun. Brinkerhoff was also vice-president and a director of Stauffer Publications as well as director of Capper Publications Inc., the Topeka State Journal Company, and Newton Publishing Company. In addition, he was vice-president of the KSEK Broadcasting Company in Pittsburg. Brinkerhoff was well known as a journalist, serving as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1935 and as chairman of the Kansas Associated Press in 1946-1947. He also served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize jury for editorial writing in 1950 and 1951. In 1956, he received the William Allen White award to a Kansas editor for journalistic merit. Active in community affairs, Brinkerhoff was a member of the board of the Pittsburg Public Library, served as chairman of the Pittsburg Industrial Commission, and was on the board of directors and served a term as president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was also active in Republican party politics. Brinkerhoff was interested in the history of the state and served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1944. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and grouped alphabetically by individuals with whom Brinkerhoff was in frequent contact, including Roy F. Bailey, Arthur Capper, Rolla Clymer, Harry W. Colmery, Harry Darby, Jess C. Denious, Myron George, Merl Huffman, Clyde M. Reed, Richard W. Robbins, Andrew Schoepel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

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Callnumber: Frederick W. Brinkerhoff Coll. #97, Box 1 Folder 1 - Box 8 Folder 5

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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Topeka State Journal
TOPEKA, KANSAS

May 10, 1952

Fred Brinkerhoff,
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun,
Pittsburg, Kan.

Dear Fred:

As you know, we are presently carrying on a campaign for the city manager plan, which we hope to bring to a vote in November. In this connection, we are introducing a series by Kansas editors on the manager plan as it works in their towns.

Mr. Stauffer suggested you might be willing to give us a signed piece on the manager plan as it now works in Pittsburg and compared to the previous form of government.

Specific accomplishments would be of particular interest.

We were grateful for your recent editorial on the subject, which you may have seen in The State Journal as a reprint.

Anything you feel able to do on this will be appreciated and a favor which we can hope some time to return.

With best personal regards,

Tom
Tom L. Kiene.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 13, 1952

Robert O. Karr
Gizard, Kas.

Dear Representative:

Thanks for the cigars. They will not be used to help smoke-fill a room. Anyway, by the next time we will have a Presidential primary that will remove the necessity of such rooms.

I will say that few bets as loosely contrived as this one are paid off so promptly.

You will be interested in knowing that I had to fork over a fiver to my Arkansas friend, Max Frohlich. Months ago he bet me that Truman would not run again. When Truman announced what he wasn't going to do, Frohlich naturally wanted me to pay. I declined to do so until after the Democrat convention.

I still think that the truth that is pertinent about any candidate for any office in any party is something the people are entitled to have. In other words I do not think the truth about the record of any candidate for office should hurt him unless he deserves to be hurt. In other words it is not the circulation of truth that affects a candidate. It is the truth itself.

Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



from the desk of...

JOHN L. KIRKPATRICK, District Judge
OLATHE, KANSAS

Jan 15, '54
Dear Fred:
Should like to support
you as a candidate for Governor
but may be you are too old.
Officers should be up and coming.
I am on my last lap now, too
old, - cannot run again but
can finish this term. But
I shall be glad to get through.
Think you will find
interesting reading in December
advance sheet of Kan. Reports—
first our being No 3 of Vol 175,
State v. Martin beginning p. 373.
You can get from one of the law offices.
Hope you are both all right.
We are as usual.
J. L. K.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

JOHN L. KIRKPATRICK
OLATHE, KANSAS
DISTRICT JUDGE

March 9, 1954

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

You may have noticed that I was in Pittsburg Saturday night at the Bar Banquet and wonder why I did not get to see you, but we were pretty busy. I had Mr. Walters, Bailiff of our court, with me. I had left Annie with her mother in Kansas City. Mr. Walters and I had a great deal to do besides my going to the banquet, because I wished to acquaint him with as much as possible of Pittsburg and vicinity. Did try to see you at the Sun. Went by the office in the forenoon and, as expected, you were not there.

I hear from Judge Owsley that you had an editorial lately about some remarks I made at the sentencing of two defendants, but of course I do not know anything about it and he did not remember the names. I did not realize I had done anything unusual, and further explanation is on copy of a letter which I am herewith sending to you, together with Director Hoover's letter, which I should like to have returned to me if not too much trouble.

Of course, I am not sending any of this for the purpose of getting any publicity, since I do not need it, but it is rather nice to be noticed by someone, and it seems that the F.B.I. notices a good many people.

I am also sending a K. U. Newsletter containing your picture, thinking you may not have received a copy.

I found out as much as possible from A. B. about all of you, and I am glad I got to make the trip, although I didn't have as much time as I should have liked.

Yours very sincerely,

John L. Kirkpatrick
John L. Kirkpatrick
District Judge

JLK:cs
Encls.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 9, 1954

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have your letter of March 3, 1954, re sentencing of Ivan and Augusta Pearce in our court, and appreciate it very much.

I was not conscious of having done or said anything unusual, except that I took the liberty of mentioning your name. Occasionally, a country or a locality has an epidemic, and at this time law enforcement is having a rather prolonged epidemic of psychiatry, which has reached into the legislatures and comes into almost every criminal case. Our legislature, wishing to keep up, has provided for what we call bench paroles, so that in practically every criminal case I am obliged to listen to a harangue by the defendant's attorney seeking a parole, which I usually deny with more or less set remarks.

We have two sets of psychiatrists in the trials nowadays -- one on each side -- directly controverting each other, but their consensus of opinion often is that there is no crime, which is similar to the thought of some religionists that there is no sin.

I may be far past reformation, having commenced too long ago in the practice to accept all of the new theories, and I shall have to continue to the end of my term of office next January. In the meantime, however, I shall do all possible to assist you in coping with crime.

Yours very truly,

John L. Kirkpatrick
District Judge

JLK:cs

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

March 10, 1954

John L. Kirkpatrick
Judge of the District Court
Olathe, Kas.

Dear John:

It is too bad that I had to be out of the city Saturday when you were here. Pearl noted your presence and guessed that you had called at the office. I was in Topeka for a meeting of the federal-state relations commission which took all day.

Thanks for sending me the Hoover letter. Mr. Hoover is one who watches things closely and drops a word in where one is deserved as he did in your case.

I am enclosing copy of a letter to him.

I am also enclosing a copy of the editorial to which you refer.

Pearl is still wearing a splint but it is expected that it can be taken off Friday. The accident in which she broke her right forearm was most unusual and she did not realize until sometime after it happened that anything was wrong.

Thanks for sending me the K. U. Newsletter. It was a very enjoyable occasion, the giving of the award to Charles M. Harger. He is a remarkable man--on the way to 92 or, as he put it, in the "restricted area" of the 90s.

Again, sorry I missed you and maybe one of these days we will be together for another visit.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

JOHN L. KIRKPATRICK
OLATHE, KANSAS
DISTRICT JUDGE

March 29, 1954

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear F. W.:

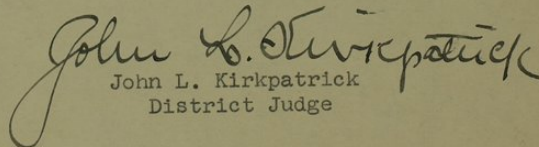
I duly received your favor, with letter from Director J. Edgar Hoover, and didn't immediately return it because I wanted to show it to Annie. She was staying with her mother in Kansas City last week, and that was the reason for the delay. I return it for your files, and wish to thank you for sending it to me.

Annie's mother, as you know, is getting pretty old. She will be ninety-eight in June if she can live that long, but is gradually declining and requiring more care, although she is able to be up and about most of the time.

We hope to get down to Pittsburg before too long, and will try to see both of you. I hope you are both well at this time.

Thanking you again, I remain

Yours very truly,


John L. Kirkpatrick
District Judge

JLK:cs
Encl.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

KANSAS FARM BUREAU

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

May 24, 1954



H. A. PRAEGER
President
W. I. BOONE
Vice-President
J. D. SMERCHEK
Secretary-Treasurer

cc
F. W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Friend:

We appreciate very much the courtesy extended to members of this department and our guest, John J. Lacey of the American Farm Bureau Federation, during a recent visit in your office. We know that it is not always easy to find a place in your busy day for all the people who knock on your door.

We are very positive that we did not find all the answers to agriculture's problems. We do hope that you found some of the information discussed of value.

Although the recommendation to the AFBF regarding agricultural support programs as adopted by Kansas Farm Bureau delegates in Wichita last November is not identical in all detail with the AFBF resolution on the same subject adopted about 30 days later in Chicago, our board seems to feel that we can work together with the other 47 states on the nationally adopted program. In all honesty the Kansas recommendation was pretty much an open door and a search for something better than what we have under the present program. It will be interesting to see what is developed this fall by the voting delegates from 105 county Farm Bureaus in the state federation.

We will welcome any opportunities which you may give us to furnish further information at any time regarding Kansas Farm Bureau and the 105 member county Farm Bureaus.

Thanking you again and with sincere personal regards, we are

Yours very truly,

Dept. of Information
Kansas Farm Bureau

R. P. Taylor

By R. P. Taylor
Associate Director

RPT:jb
Encl.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Wichita Eagle

Morning, Evening and Sunday
WICHITA 1, KANSAS

Editorial Page
MARCELLUS M. MURDOCK, Publisher

Dec. 12, 1954

Mr. F.W. Brinkerhoff,
The Pittsburg Headlight & Sun,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I have had it in mind for some time to write to you asking your advice on a rather difficult project. Dr. John Bright of the University of Washburn, who is editing the Kansas Centennial History, has asked me to write a 10,000-word history of Kansas newspapers in this century. Nyle Miller is doing the Nineteenth Century part. The deadline is around late Summer or early Autumn.

There is not a great deal of source material. I have done some reading of general newspaper history and have covered the proceedings of the Kansas Editorial Association through 1928. The two state school journalism departments have supplied what they can, particularly their students who became successful. The typographical union will furnish a Topeka history of publisher-printer relations. I have asked a Kansas State man, Dr. Socolofsky, for a graduate thesis he has done on the Capper Publications. Oscar Stauffer has helped me with several suggestions.

In general I plan to follow the newspapers from their inexpensive, personal-journalism beginnings which seem to have begun to veer more to the profit motive about the turn of the century. Now we have, of course, the highly valued institutions, some of them in chains, which are passed from father to son. That change, it seems to me, would bear a lot of comment.

Then there is the political era of Kansas editors, say from Hoch to Reed with Capper about the last of the line, the revolution of mechanics and methods, the labor angle, the newspaper sense of obligation to the public interest and where we stand today.

The problem is to find supporting facts and documentation. Perhaps

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Wichita Eagle

Morning, Evening and Sunday
WICHITA 1, KANSAS

Editorial Page
MARCELLUS M. MURDOCK, Publisher

you have some leads in mind. I recall that you delivered the Clyde Reed eulogy. I think Rolla Clymer, too, has done some eulogies and I'll write to him.

There can be no proper history of Kansas newspapers in 10,000 words. But perhaps if the material is made compact enough I can get enough information into the article to be helpful to some poor goof who in the future might be moved to do a real history of this subject. It is interesting and colorful enough to merit a book.

Perhaps Roy Bailey could tell me about newspaper plant values now compared with the shirt tail full of type which was once the price. The Kansas City Star joint ownership, which I understand has ^{some part} ~~explore~~ in the Stauffer, Harris and other structures, also has a place.

I'll be grateful if you can help me with suggestions at your leisure. Perhaps after the extracurricular activities have eased off a bit you can give me some leads.

Sincerely yours,

L. F. Kimmel

L.F.Kimmel

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Dec. 16, 1954

L. P. Kimmel
The Eagle
Wichita, Kas.

Dear Mr. Kimmel:

I will be glad to give you any help I can on your project. I take it from your letter that you want some leads on things that might be considered chapters in your story of this century in Kansas newspaperdom.

For one thing I think that one of the first country newspaper chains in the nation and certainly the first one in Kansas was originated by Henry J. Allen. He had the Ottawa Herald after the purchase of Joe Bristow's interest. He was defeated in his ambition to go to Congress from the Second District. He decided to get balm for his disappointment in an increased attention to the newspaper business. Out of his determination came the establishment of the Garden City Telegram, a new paper. About the same time he made a deal for the Parsons Sun and took it over with Clyde Reed associated with him. He also bought the morning paper at Fort Scott, the Fort Scott Republican. That was quite a little chain for a time. He had the notion of moving from Ottawa to Fort Scott and devoting his time to the supervision of all the papers. Then the Beacon deal came along and he made it and gradually disposed of his interests at Ottawa, Fort Scott, Parsons and Garden City.

The first teletypesetter circuit in the country connecting newspapers independently owned was in Kansas. In Arkansas where C. E. Palmer owns a number of papers he established a teletypesetter circuit. Two or three others were established by chains. But this one was set up by The Pittsburg Headlight, the Fort Scott Tribune, the Parsons Sun, the Independence Reporter and the Coffeyville Journal. The editing and sending office was in Pittsburg. Later these papers were joined by the Arkansas City Traveler, the Winfield Courier, the Leavenworth Times and the Atchison Globe. We had nine on the circuit when The Associated Press took over.

You refer to my address at the Clyde Reed funeral. Last February I made the presentation of the K. U. award to Charles M. Harger.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

L. F. Kimmel--2--Dec. 16, 1954

The item of the award, I am sure you will want to deal with.

While it was not exactly a newspaper still it had an important place in publication. I refer to the Appeal to Reason at Girard whose press ran 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was a great Socialist weekly newspaper for the country.

If these give you any ideas of importance or value, you are welcome to them and, as I said, I will be glad to give you any other help that I can.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 30, 1958

Lester Kimmel
The Eagle
Wichita, Kas.

Dear Les:

I thought perhaps you might not have noticed the Ottawa Herald's reaction to the Goodrich scheme. So I am enclosing a tearout from our paper of yesterday in which we reprinted the Herald's piece. You may have missed the Herald's editorial of about three weeks ago, so I am enclosing tearout. I am also enclosing a tearout of an editorial of mine on "southeastern Kansas" on which I received comment.

I assume you already have formed the conclusion, but the truth seems to be that Goodrich brought this thing up when he did, soon after expressing cooperation with US69 association at our meeting in Pleasanton, for political purposes. It is quite obvious he thought they could embarrass Clyde. But they are not going to do that. The county chairman of Labette County told a Democrat friend of mine that Docking would gain more over in the 59 territory than he would lose in the 69 territory. In other words they may have figured on losing support in Cherokee, Crawford and Bourbon which gave Docking heavy support two years ago but gaining more in the Republican counties of Anderson, Allen, Neosho and Montgomery. The truth is that I have never seen anybody madder in politics than the Democrats over here. Senator Doty, Dave Graves of Columbus, Jack Scott, representative from Cherokee County and now chairman of the county committee and many others are outspoken in their denunciation of the Goodrich movement.

One thing I have sought to make clear with only fair success. The 69 association presented to the state highway commission primarily a request for an improvement program, long range on US69. We were only forced into insisting that the application for the designation of 69 on the interstate system as made two and one-half years ago be not disturbed because of the fight Goodrich had started.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Lester Kimmel--2--Aug. 30, 1958

The best judgment of men qualified to give it that I have obtained is that shooting the interstate down south from Ottawa would take more away from the turnpike by far than the sector of 35 Ottawa-Emporia would take.

I am also quite confident that the federal officials are not going to change their plans.

Just thought this was some information you would like to have.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Wichita Eagle



Editorial Page

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

LESTER F. KIMMEL
CLARKE M. THOMAS
MARTIN N. PERRY

Sept. 2, 1958

Dear Fred:

Thank you for the letter and enclosures about the Goodrich highway proposal. I had seen the Ottawa editorial and yours, but missed some of the news stories. They will come in handy when we comment in the future.

As I get it from Scott Fones and others in your area, the reaction is all against the Docking administration and none against Clyde. It had seemed to me that Docking had some advantages in your area--unemployment and possibly some sales tax unhappiness. He may have pooped it all off through the highway stir. In fact, as a pooper-offer, he appears to be developing into quite a genius.

Your confidence that the federal officials are not going to change their plans is reassuring. The dropping of an interstate from Ottawa south would be of as little service to Kansas as anything imaginable.

By the way, is the suggestion of a Kansas-Missouri border highway going to get anywhere with the U.S. authorities?

Cordially,

L.F. Kimmel

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Sept. 10, 1958

L. F. Kimmel
The Eagle
Wichita, Kas.

Dear Lester:

You had the right information. There is no reaction against Clyde. Some folks who are violent ask whether the fact that Clyde lives in Parsons would influence him in this road matter. I spoke at Galena the night before last and was asked that question directly by one of the Democrat candidates down there who said he was opposed to Docking but wondered about Reed. Clyde has had no part in this thing and will not have any.

In a taped interview which KSEK took Docking listed various proposed routes, minimizing 69, and when asked about improvements on 69 said that improvements already had been made "as far as Olathe." Of course, 69 does not serve Olathe. If the governor would look at the map a bit, he would be better informed.

It will be surprising to me if Emporia, Wichita and the other cities to the west do not send some representations to the bureau of public roads and to Van Buck, regional engineer at Kansas City.

Joplin is moving into action to promote a direct route from Kansas City to Joplin on the Missouri side. But it is more interested I believe in a straddle interstate from Kansas City south to the Oklahoma line. Between us, Missouri will build this road if it has a chance to get the interstate link. The Missouri highway commission is not worried about closeness to the state line. It could be, of course, that a show of interest in this plan now could be helpful in proposing a compromise on the state line.

I hope that it will not be forgotten that our original request of the commission was to set up a program of real improvement on US69 and that the other things were brought in by Goodrich.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

MINUTES OF THE KPA PUBLIC'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW
COMMITTEE MEETING
October 4, 1957

Committee members attending were:

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Chairman
Jess Denious, Jr., Dodge City
John A. Boyer, Scott City

Dr. Rees Hughes, Pittsburg
Ned Fleming, Topeka

Members absent:

Judge Clark Wallace
R. A. Clymer
E. A. Briles
Henry Jameson

Others attending were:

Maurice Lungren, Lawrence
Howard Wilson, Jetmore
Don McNeal, Council Grove

Elton Carter, Norton
John Shuart, Topeka
Larry Miller
Forrest Inks

Tom Kiene, managing editor of the Topeka State Journal
Jim Reed, executive editor of the Topeka Daily Capital

Chairman F. W. Brinkerhoff told committee members that the committee is unique in that it has three non-newspaper members in addition to its six newspaper representatives.

Mr. Brinkerhoff asked the committee if it would like to appear before the Legislative Council to present any facts gathered by the group on the 17th resolution. It was felt, however, that the committee would not have time to collect the necessary facts to present to the Council, especially since one of the new laws passed by the Legislature did not become effective until June. The committee asked Mr. Brinkerhoff to decline the invitation, with the view of appearing next year before the Council.

Mr. Jim Reed, of the Topeka Daily Capital, submitted a report on a case of the public's being denied knowledge to which it was entitled. This case occurred at Berryton, involving the school board.

Maurice Lungren presented eight cases which occurred in Kansas, gathered about two years ago in connection with the William Allen White Foundation. Lungren agreed to contact his sources to obtain permission to print these cases, one a month, in the Kansas Publisher, omitting names of those towns involved.

The committee discussed one of its primary objectives--that of having the meetings of public bodies open to the public. The charge of irresponsible reporting is sometimes cited as the reason for closed meetings. Members of the committee felt that public officials should be able to talk over their problems freely and privately--but the minute that some action is taken by a governing body, the meeting should be open to the public.

Courtroom photography was discussed by Mr. Shuart of the Kansas Bar Association, who said that most opposition seems to be based on the fear of disturbance. He felt, however, that this opposition will dwindle. The committee believes that in the future photographers will be equipped with cameras that won't make any more disturbance than a reporter's pencil.

The feelings of the committee were summarized by Jim Reed, managing editor of the Topeka Daily Capital, when he said: "The right-to-know is a two-way street. Newspapers must remind themselves of their responsibility and use horse sense and good judgment."

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

STATE OF KANSAS



SENATE CHAMBER

JAMES W. PORTER, Senator Sixteenth District
TOPEKA, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman: Federal and State Affairs

Member

Banks and Banking
Committee on Committees
Education
Insurance
Judiciary
Legislative and Congressional
Apportionment
Municipalities
Water Resources

October 8, 1957

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff
Chairman, Right to Know Committee
Kansas Press Association
c/o Pittsburg Publishing Company
Pittsburg, Kansas

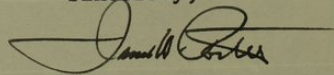
Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 7, 1957.

I am sure that the Legislative Council Committee will delay consideration of Proposal No. 17 until after the first of the year.

I will appreciate it very much, however, that as soon as your committee is ready with its study and report you will let me know so that I may schedule a hearing upon this proposal.

Sincerely,



James W. Porter
Chairman, Committee on
Federal, State, and Local
Government, Kansas Legislative
Council

JWP/vb

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 7, 1957

Senator James W. Porter
320 New England Building
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Senator:

We had a meeting of our committee at Topeka Friday and it was decided that we should postpone the presentation of our proposals for an indefinite time probably into next year. The committee was in agreement on this matter as we desire to have a comprehensive presentation when we appear. We believe that we have a very serious issue and we are sure that it will be so considered when the facts are assembled for your committee.

We trust that this delay will be satisfactory to you.

Thanking you so much for the interest you have shown in our cause,

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff
Chairman
Right-to-Know Committee
Kansas Press Association

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 7, 1957

Elton Carter
The Telegram
Norton, Kas.

Dear Elton:

Thanks again for the buggy ride to Manhattan. I hope that you caught the K. U.-Colorado broadcast all right. We enjoyed it all the way into Topeka. Especially enjoyable was the news just as we reached the Kansan corner of the favor that Morris did with his toe.

I thought the meeting was a very excellent one and that Ralph was able to put some meat into the program.

I am enclosing copy of a letter I am sending to Senator Porter.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 7, 1957

Senator James W. Porter
320 New England Building
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Senator:

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Thanking you so much for the interest you have shown in our cause,

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff
Chairman
Right-to-Know Committee
Kansas Press Association

FWE:ls

The Stafford Courier

E. A. BRILES
PUBLISHER

R. T. DARNALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

PRINTING

PUBLISHING

OFFICE SUPPLIES

PHONE NO. 12
STAFFORD, KANSAS

Sep. 28, 1957

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Chairman,
K.P.A. Right-to-Know Committee,
The Headlight,
Pittsburg, Kabs.

Dear Brink:

I'm sorry to have to inform you that I will not be at the meeting in Topeka Oct. 4.

Mrs. Briles has cancer of the liver and will not live many months. At present she is at home, where she prefers to be. She is able to sit up some each day and go for a short ride in the car in nice weather.

Fortunately I have been able to arrange my affairs so I can be at home almost all the time and take care of her needs. As long as this situation continues, I consider it my duty, and privilege, to be with her all I can. I do not expect to leave town for anything.

Do wish I could be at the meeting, because I am interested in the work of this committee. I think the three non-newspaper members add strength to it and its efforts.

Sincerely,

E. A. Briles

E. A. Briles

cc: Larry Miller

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

STATE OF KANSAS



SENATE CHAMBER

JAMES W. PORTER, *Senator Sixteenth District*
TOPEKA, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman: Federal and State Affairs

Member

*Banks and Banking
Committee on Committees
Education
Insurance
Judiciary
Legislative and Congressional
Apportionment
Municipalities
Water Resources*

October 3, 1957

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Publisher, Pittsburg Headlight
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I am Chairman of the Committee on Federal, State, and Local Government of the Kansas Legislative Council to which has been referred Proposal No. 17, relating to a study, report, and recommendations as to certain records and meetings of Governmental Bodies and Officers, commonly referred to as the "right to know". Last spring shortly after this proposal was referred to our committee, Representative Marion R. Krehbiel, who is vice chairman of the committee, discussed the proposal with Mr. Elton Carter, President of the Kansas Press Association. Mr. Carter advised us that a hearing on the proposal should be delayed until such time as a committee then being established by the Kansas Press Association would have the opportunity to prepare material for presentation to our committee relative to this proposal. I understand from Representative Krehbiel that you are Chairman of this committee.

I will appreciate being advised as to the progress of your committee and as to an approximate time when you and your committee would be able to appear before the Legislative Council Committee with respect to this proposal. The next Legislative Council session is scheduled for about the middle of November, 1957. If your committee is ready by that time, then I am certain a hearing may be held sometime during the Legislative Meeting.

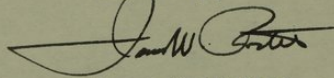
Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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I think that the consideration of this proposal should not be delayed too long but the committee felt that a postponement was wise until we should have full advantage of the information which undoubtedly is being assembled by your committee on this subject. My committee is, of course, primarily interested in specific cases, where official public records and meetings of public officials are not available or open to the public.

I will appreciate hearing from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely,



James W. Porter
Chairman of Committee on
Federal, State and Local
Government,
Legislative Council
320 New England Building
Topeka, Kansas

JWP/vs



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LARRY MILLER,
General Manager

PHONE 3-6206
701 JACKSON ST., TOPEKA
May 22, 1957.

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff,
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Dear Fred:

Mrs. Docking likes the cut used in the Sun on May 12th and the Headlight on May 14th. Would it be possible for you to obtain a glossy of each and send them to me, billing us for same?

I had a conversation with Marion Krehbiel on Right-to-Know yesterday and was impressed with the idea that he is not as hot on the Legislative Council hearing as he was a month or so ago.

I felt from his conversation it might be possible to delay this indefinitely as far as the Legislative Council is concerned. In some ways, this would be better. Get our Committee formed and see how the one law that was passed works and have a better report for the Legislature than we could give the Legislature through the Legislative Council in September if we have to meet with them in September.

I think it should be built around the Hamilton, Missouri, case. I realize this is not a Kansas case, but Hamilton is only 40 miles east of St. Joe and it is documented and would make a pretty good case with some fill-ins on Kansas examples.

Elton says "I want a big name for the ninth member of the Right-to-Know Committee" and I do think it would have some merit. We have a judge and a school administrator, and it seems to me that a business man would round this out well. Maybe he doesn't need to be as well known as I would like, but I cannot help but think of the name Ned Fleming or Ray Dillon. Actually, we have one from the southeast and one from the southwest, and maybe this man should be from either the northeast or northwest.

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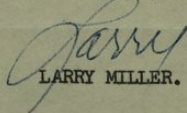
Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff,
5/22/57,
Page 2.

Anything you decide on will be perfectly
agreeable with me.

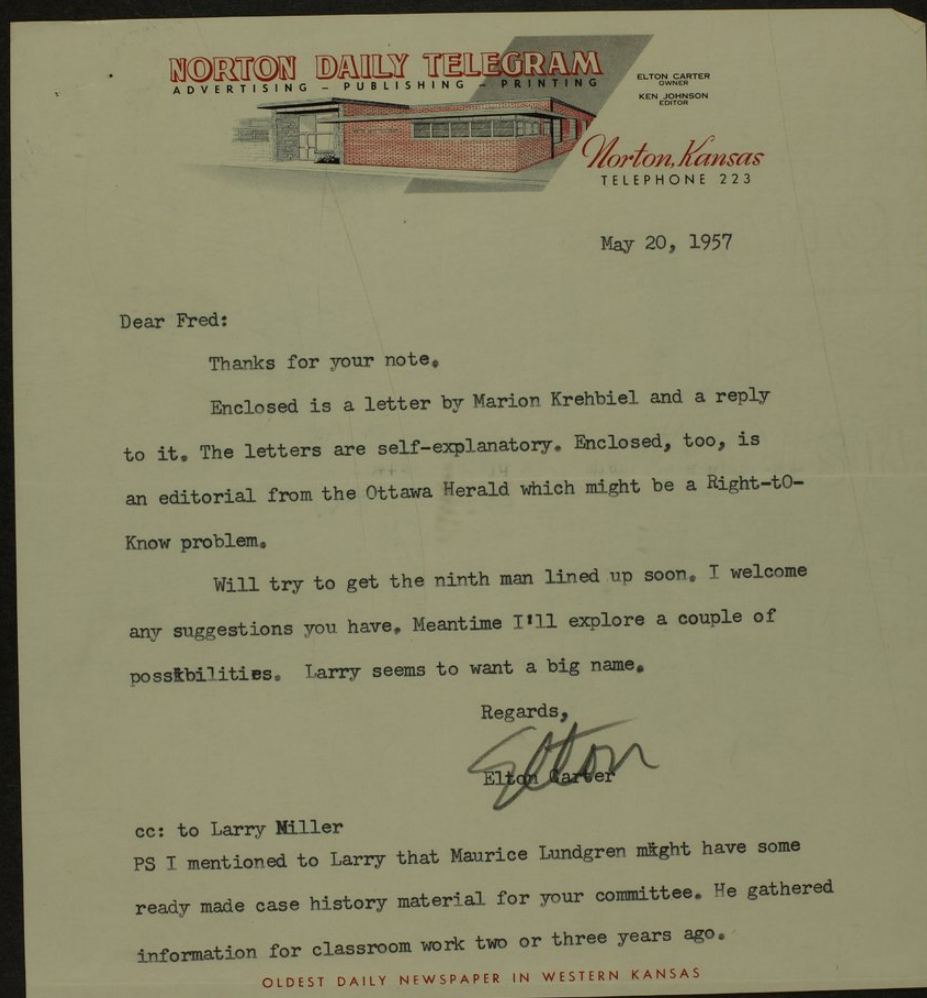
With every good wish.

Cordially yours,


LARRY MILLER.

LM/rb

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Editorials

What Happened?

City Hall underwent a mild earthquake Tuesday. Two men, putting it bluntly, were fired by the city commissioners. Two others retired.

With the retirement, you can't argue. Nor can you with the desire of the board to switch police judge. That happens often. It's a minor office that is passed around.

But what happened to the city engineer.

Without a word of explanation, the commission ruled not to re-hire a man who has served the city since 1935 and had been city engineer since 1949.

Asked for comments, the commissioners came up with the monotonous "no comment," a stock answer that can't help but raise suspicion in the minds of the public.

Certainly the people . . . and the ex-engineer . . . are entitled to an explanation.

Such action on the part of the governing body could give Ottawa an unhealthy reputation. Were the occasion to arise where the city would have to look beyond the corporate limits for a trained man to fill a responsible position, the unexplained action of Tuesday will be remembered. It will make it more difficult in the future to entice competent men to Ottawa to serve the city.

Employment in public capacities is rough enough as it is without adding the possibility of an upheaval each time there is a change on the commission.

The people of Ottawa are entitled to know what happened to Jeff.

Laff-A-Day



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"Just as I thought—instead of pounds overweight, I'm inches too short."

After All

Trading stamps are on the way to Kansas and it reminds an old-time merchandising plan of years ago.

First merchandising members was the one that came with each purchase of early day business girls.

There was a time when

Children



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Basin Scrap Is Seen

TON (P)—A three-day being favored over upstream power. Sen. Murray (D-Mont), chairman of the interior committee, will preside at the sessions. Witnesses are on tap from Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota. Colorado is not on the docket. James R. Smith of Omaha, Missouri division director of the Mississippi Valley Assn., will present that organization's views on the controversy. Both the Army Engineers and bureau of reclamation are expected to be asked for their opinions.

40 witnesses from es are scheduled to the combined Senate Public Works com- en now and Friday. was prompted by as of the North Da- kota and Montana asking for an in- release of water usin reservoirs for eses. ent is that down- on interests are

The Ottawa Herald
Page 3
May 1, 1957

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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 14, 1957

The Hon. James M. Porter
Senator, District 16,
Millard, Eidson, Lewis & Porter
Attorneys-at-law
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Jim:

I visited this morning with Elton Carter, publisher of the Norton Daily Telegram and president of the Kansas Press Assn., in regard to our committee meeting June 13-14 at which you wanted him and others of the Press to appear relative to the Right-to-Know proposals.

He would like very much to postpone this hearing until a later meeting of our State Affairs committee for the simple reason that a KPA committee is now being organized for the express purpose of assembling just the kind of evidence you wanted to hear, but will not have completed its work by then.

This new committee of KPA, formed at the January state meeting but not yet activated, pending appointment of the final member next week, is composed of nine very carefully chosen men, six from the Press, one educator, one attorney and one business man, all of whom have been appointed except the latter. Dr. Nees Hughes of Pittsburg has accepted as an educator and Judge Clark Wallace of Kingman as the attorney, so you can see the calibre of the men who will make this survey.

In my own mind, I think it would be wise to take up some other agenda at the June 13-14 meeting and delay this hearing until a later meeting so we can go over all the material this committee has developed. If we hear them now, we'll probably have to hear them again later anyway after their final report back to KPA.

I'd be glad to have your ideas, and if it isn't convenient to postpone, Carter says that he will have representation there on the original dates.

Sincerest personal regards . . .

"KRADE"

Marion R. Krehbiel/mrk