

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 125, Pages 3721 - 3750

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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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 13, 1956

Judge W. D. Jochems
500 Farmers and Bankers Life Ins. Bldg.
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Bill:

Your recalling the other day the Stauffer-Beacon deal in 1928 prompts me to put in writing something that I have long intended. I do not know of a better friend to inflict it on than you.

Henry Allen stopped to see me in Topeka on his way home from the 1928 Republican Convention in Kansas City. He was down-east. His old enemy, Charlie Curtis, had been nominated for Vice President. Henry had hopes of himself being picked for Vice President by the Hoover crowd. He asked me to talk with former Mayor Babcock of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and a member of the Pennsylvania delegation--whom he thought would do some work for his nomination in that delegation. I visited with him and got a real cold shoulder.

Henry asked me if the report that immediately started that if Clyde Reed was elected, he would appoint him to the senatorial vacancy that existed if Curtis was elected.

I replied that it was--in labor circles especially. But that if they did not use one story, they would be using another and that Clyde was going to be nominated, and there was not anything to worry about.

A few days later Henry called me from Wichita. He said that he had a statement that he wanted me to read. I told him I would be in Wichita in two or three days. Henry asked me out to his house and showed me his statement which was to the effect that he was going to retire from public affairs and devote himself to publishing activities and under no circumstances would accept the appointment for United States Senator.

I tried to get him to modify the statement on the grounds that he did not know what might happen to change his mind. He refused to do it. He said, "I am not going to be in a position of fooling the people of Kansas."

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Judge W. D. Jochems

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Finally I said, "Well, all right, Henry. Neither will I. If you issue that statement as is, I will not be for your appointment as United States Senator," and I wasn't.

Henry then told me that he was buying the World in Omaha.

The next thing I knew, I got a telephone call from Henry one Saturday night a few weeks later, saying that Hoover had offered him the Director of Publicity for the National Committee and that he was on a deal to sell the Beacon to Oscar Stauffer. He said Oscar was interested and he thought that if I would be willing to put in \$25,000 with him that would have a great influence on the deal. This was right at the tail end of the Reed primary campaign, and I told him I could not leave headquarters to come to Wichita. Sunday morning he got me out of bed at six o'clock and laid down on me hard to come to Wichita. I finally said, "You got me awake now, and I will be down this afternoon, but I would have to return home tonight."

He said, "Fine. Come out to the house, and we will have lunch together."

I called Theo Cobb--her uncle lived at Whitewater--to ride down with me, saying that we would be back that night. But we did not get back that night, and we did not get back until Tuesday night. As you recalled, I went in on the deal with Oscar to buy the Beacon and the contracts were all drawn in final and acceptable form Tuesday morning. The stock market started its first break that morning, and Oscar changed his mind between ten o'clock and two o'clock.

Henry then told me after Oscar left that he could sell the paper to the Levands for \$200,000 more, and he was going to do it. On our way back to Topeka, Theo and I stopped at Emporia at the Whites. I told them about the deal. Bill said, "That is terrible. That will not leave him any base to operate from." He went right to the phone and called Henry. I heard Mr. White say to him, "You will turn a skunk loose in your own front yard." He told me when he got off the phone that Henry said he was going to turn a skunk loose in the Murdocks' back yard.

Henry told me the whole story of what made him change his plans. He was in Chicago and the contract had been put into final form for the purchase from Mr. Updike when he got a telephone call from Herbert Hoover, asking him to come to Washington. Henry told him he could not and that he was just in the final stages of closing a deal for a paper. Mr. Hoover said that is what I have heard and that I want to talk to you before you do it.

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Judge W. D. Joehms

June 13, 1956

Henry said, "All right. I will take a train that will get me in Washington at eight o'clock Sunday. If I may come to the house to see you, I can leave for Chicago Sunday night."

Mr. Hoover said, "Fine. Come out for breakfast."

After that conversation, Mr. Updike came back in the room for Henry's final signature. Henry told him of the call from Mr. Hoover and that he would not sign the contract until he got back from Washington Monday morning. Mr. Updike objected and said, "We have been here two or three days, and we have it in form where it is acceptable to you and me, and I do not want to wait any longer."

Governor Allen said, "I cannot refuse a request like this from the man who is going to be the next President of the United States."

Finally Mr. Updike agreed to wait until Monday morning. When Henry reached Mr. Hoover's house, he was offered the Publicity Directorship. Henry said to him, "Well, this means I have reached the crossroads. I had intended to expand my publishing activities and retire from public affairs."

Mr. Hoover said to him, "I had to make the same decision myself when I was offered a position in President Harding's cabinet. I am not a wealthy man. I had accumulated about \$500,000, and had to decide whether I was going to continue in my profession or enter a public career."

The upshot of it was that Henry called Mr. Updike and said that the deal was off. Updike said, "You can't do that to me. We already have this deal made."

Henry said, "I can get you \$100,000 more for your paper from Hearst."

Updike said, "All right, if you do that it will be satisfactory with me."

Governor Allen called Frank Knox, who was the general manager for the Hearst Publications. Knox said they would pay the price provided Henry would stay a year as managing editor. Henry told him he could not do that but that he would give him a month in August and a month in November and December after election and in January and February. Knox said, "All right. I will give you \$1,000 a month."

Henry said, "That is too much money, but I will take it."

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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Judge W. D. Jochems

June 13, 1956

After the election, Henry thought he would be offered a place in Hoover's cabinet, but he was not. According to Henry, President Hoover never mentioned the cabinet place but asked him to come to the Senate by appointment. I opposed that for the reasons I have given. Finally, the plan was concocted of getting around Henry's statement by having President Hoover ask Governor Reed to appoint him. Governor Reed went to Washington ostensibly to discuss railroad rates. Bill White said, "Don't let so much as a thin calico curtain come between you and the President on the appointment of Henry Allen."

But the subject was never mentioned by the President. It was by the Council of the National Committee. According to reports, Clyde having gone to Washington to discuss railroad rates insisted on doing that with President Hoover. The President was not interested and was irritated at him for taking his time to discuss it. Anyhow Reed appointed Allen and the announcement was made from Washington with the inference that it was at President Hoover's request.

After he returned home, he called me and said, "Alf, what have I done?" referring to the appointment of Allen.

I replied, "I told you the reaction would be bad and it is."

This also recalls a visit I had with President Roosevelt at the time he was trying to get me into his cabinet. According to the President, several of the young Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of State in President Woodrow Wilson's cabinet were in the habit of meeting at each others houses for a Sunday night "snack." One night in the fall of 1919, Secretary of Interior Franklin K. Lane from California was there. Mr. Hoover had been in the habit of meeting with them.

Secretary Lane said to Mr. Hoover, "Herbert, I don't know whether you know it or not but you have a great political future. But you must first say whether you are a Republican or a Democrat." Mr. Hoover replied that he always considered himself a progressive.

Secretary Lane said, "Well you certainly have nothing in common with Lodge, Murray Crane, Boyce Penrose, Brandegee," to which Hoover agreed.

The Secretary said, "The Republicans are going to win in 1920 but they will not be equal to the problems of reconstruction. We will win in 1924. I do not want to see you nominated in 1920 but I want to see you get a build up for 1924. The way to do that is to have you start on the first ballot with a scattering of votes and have an increase on every one. That will be easy to arrange. I will be glad to undertake it for you,

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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Judge W. D. Jochems

June 13, 1956

but you will have to say first whether you are a Republican or Democrat."

According to President Roosevelt, it was finally agreed to that was a sound plan, and Mr. Hoover was going to say that he was a Democrat and the Secretary was going to undertake this build up. As he said, he did not want these votes to come all from one state, but scattered from all over the country. President Roosevelt said that a few months later he was at dinner with Mrs. Gussie Gardner--the daughter of Senator Lodge and a late Congressman from Massachusetts.

She said to Mr. Roosevelt, "Herbie is going to be a Republican. Pappa got him."

According to Mr. Roosevelt, Senator Lodge had a visit with Mr. Hoover in his library, and said to him, "We are going to win this election. None of the present field is going to be nominated. There is a lot of interest on the Hill in you, Mr. Hoover, but we do not know whether you are a Republican or Democrat."

Mr. Hoover made the same reply that he had to Secretary Lane.

Senator Lodge then continued, "I do not want to lead you to believe that you can be nominated. I do not know whether you can or cannot, but I think you have an excellent chance as a potential Republican nominee in the 1920 Convention since none of the present field is going to be nominated, but you are first going to have to say whether you are a Republican or a Democrat."

Well, I started out to write you about the Beacon, and I went somewhat far afield from that, and it prompts other recollections.

To me, it is tremendously interesting to think of the little events that change a man's life like Senator Lodge's visit with Mr. Hoover, and President Hoover's telephone call to Henry Allen on a Saturday afternoon. Henry could have been nominated Vice President with Mr. Harding in 1920 if he had not impulsively set it aside. It was all set. I got this story from Fred Trigg. He and Henry were in the Convention auditorium behind the platform when Senator Medill McCormick said, "Your election for Vice President will drive away every labor vote in the country and threaten the election of the Republican ticket."

Henry in the grandiose manner that he so frequently adopted said, "I don't care anything about being nominated Vice President."

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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Judge W. D. Joehans

June 13, 1956

Senator McCormick asked him if he could take that message to the platform. The Senator immediately dashed to the platform. Henry turned to Harve Motter and said, "Get word to the delegation not to nominate me." Harve got the message to the delegation as Alabama was yielding. When Kansas did not nominate Allen, the Convention was turned into confusion as the word had been passed that he was the choice. You know the rest about Coolidge's nomination.

In 1930 I tried my best to get Bill Smith to run for Governor instead of Supreme Court. Bill refused for three reasons. One, he wanted on the Court to educate his family, etc. for security. Two, he did not think the prospects of electing a Republican Governor were favorable as his election to the Supreme Court. Three, Lacy Haynes, whom Bill paid more attention to than he did to me, did not help me in persuading Bill to run for Governor.

If Justice Smith had done what I wanted him to do, I would never have been nominated Governor, and the course of my life would have been entirely different.

Bill West did not want to run for Governor. Lacy insisted on it. I was not for it. But, of course, I did not oppose Bill West under any circumstances. I have often wondered whether Bill would have lived much longer if he had not had the physical strain of that campaign.

With all good wishes,

AML:fc

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 28, 1956

Alf M. Landon
National Bank of Topeka Bldg.
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Alf:

It is a very interesting letter you have written to Bill Jochems. I have been with Marcellus Murdock several times recently, including several visits in Washington and New York last spring. He told me incidents of the warfare between the Eagle and the Beacon, going back to the days when Henry bought the Beacon and arrived in Wichita to take over. Some of the things I knew about the transaction back in 1907 Marcellus did not know.

Henry has gone down in Kansas history as an orator and public figure rather than as a newspaper man. The truth is that Henry left journalism for politics about 1898 when he became secretary to Stanley and then moved to the board of charities. Who can point to a single editorial that came from his pen as a contribution to the newspaper literature of Kansas? Yet as I sit here now I can quote from memory one editorial he wrote. I doubt if any other living man can do as much. Although I have not seen it in type for 50 years I can remember it because I sat near him when he dictated it in the office at Ottawa. E. P. Elder, once lieutenant governor, famed Populist leader, speaker of the house and involved in Democrat journalism in Ottawa in his later year, had a paragraph in the Democrat paper when Henry was engaged in the "lathering boodler" episode with Barney Sheridan of Paola. You probably do not recall it but Allen had Sheridan arrested for libel.

Elder was a pioneer settler in Franklin County. He was Indian agent before the war. He was supposed to have made quite a bit of money as such in one way or another. He was vigorous in language and somewhat crude. Whether he wrote the piece or not that I am quoting below he had the responsibility. He was in the gang that published the paper. Here is the single Allen editorial that so far as I know anybody can recall as it sticks in my memory:

Paola has a Henry Allen, too, but he makes
an honest living selling hardware
--Ottawa Republican

Old man Elder who writes this wicked thing did not sell
hardware either. He sold beef to the Indians.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Alf M. Landon--2--June 28, 1956

As I say I have never looked at the item in print from that day to this but I have intended to look it up when I am at the historical society on research as I will be sometime this summer for two or three days. For several years I have had the self-assignment of preparing the real history of the old Ottawa Chautauqua Assembly. I have pictures, including one showing General Logen at Ottawa in 1886 with Governor Martin standing by the side of the old horse hack and numerous other pictures. Some of the sketches I have but the facts of the yarn must be taken from the old Ottawa papers. So I am going to take a minute and hunt up this Allen editorial that lives in my memory.

I was much interested in your 1920 convention stuff. Really I never knew that Allen was so close to the Presidency. I did have some idea of McCormick's opposition to Allen.

I have never forgotten an incident in the hotel room at Salina when we were organizing the convention. I was temporary chairman in charge of appointing the committees. Henry and Clyde came up with a headon collision on choosing between Sam Fitzpatrick and Corb McNeill for a committee chairmanship. Henry wanted McNeill because he said McNeill could give us some votes, although votes really were not needed right then. Henry said something about Sam Fitzpatrick not being much of a gentleman. Clyde said that Sam might not be a gentleman but he was not a liar and that Corb was. Henry had his way and Sam always put the blame on Clyde. Many years later I told Sam the story. He was in the meeting in Topeka when Henry was projected into the governorship race in 1918. Sam made one of the speeches for Henry. I remember Sam said that Henry was very frequently wrong but that he always had the "courage of his foolishness." This incident was called to Henry's attention but it did not change him.

Thanks awfully for both the letter of transmittal and the copy of the letter to Jochems. I think you have made a contribution to Kansas history and that if you have not already done so you should do more of it covering your period of activity.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

July 5, 1956

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff
The Pittsburg Publishing Company
Pittsburg, Kansas

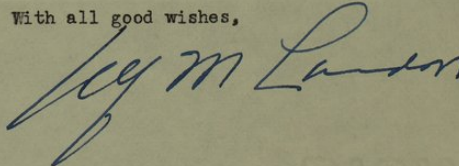
Dear Fred:

Your letter prompts another recollection. Clyde Reed once told me that Governor Stanley offered him his private secretaryship. Clyde declined. While he was still there, the Governor then called Henry Allen at a hotel in Topeka, and Clyde's cab on the way back to town from the executive mansion passed Henry's cab on the way out to the executive mansion to accept the Governor's offer.

I was at the meeting in Topeka in 1918 before Kansas Day when Sam Fitzpatrick made a talk for Henry Allen and Gomer Davies staged the dramatic walk to the rostrum to shake hands with him and Joe Dolly followed him, as I recall.

By the way, did you ever read The Golden Voice. It is about Isaac Kalloch, one of the founders of Ottawa University. If you haven't read it, I commend it to you. If you don't find a copy in the library at Pittsburg, I'll lend you my copy next time you are up.

With all good wishes,



AML:fmb

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

July 7, 1956

Alf M. Landon
National Bank of Topeka Building
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Alf:

It appears to me that you may be having the same trouble that some of the rest of us have as the years pass. I think your memory is playing a trick on you. You talk about the dramatic episode in which Gomer Davies figured and say that Gomer was making up with Sam Fitzpatrick. If you will search your memory I think you will find that Gomer was making conspicuous peace with Dave Mulvane. I was there through the whole meeting and believe my memory is right.

Thanks for your offer of "The Golden Voice." Naturally I absorbed a lot about Ike Kalloch one of the founders of Ottawa and whose name is on every abstract which involves the original townsite of Ottawa. I read the book several years ago. There is also another one which I do not have and the title of which I cannot recall which dealt with Kalloch. It was my privilege as a boy in Ottawa to have several friends among the old timers who were well acquainted with Kalloch.

I never knew that Clyde was sufficiently advanced in 1898 to be acquainted with Stanley. So the incident you mention is very interesting to me.

I hope to see you when I get up to Topeka.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

July 11, 1956

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff
The Pittsburg Publishing Company
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

I was at the meeting in the old National Hotel in the interest of Henry Allen's primary campaign for governor. If you will recall, I was Henry's manager for the Third District that year.

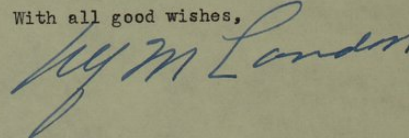
Dave Mulvane supported Billy Morgan in that race. He was not even at the meeting. After the meeting, Fitzpatrick and I rode over to Kansas City together. We had always been on opposed sides at home and were continually so after that campaign.

When the matter of the delegation to the Republican National Convention came up in 1920, Henry called me up at Topeka and asked me to be a candidate for delegate. Fitzpatrick was a candidate from Montgomery County.

I told them that I couldn't beat Fitzpatrick but Hugh Powell could because he could get the south end of the county and I could get him enough from the north end to put him over. That's the way it worked out. I carried two big townships in the north end of the county for Powell.

Incidentally, I checked my recollection with Milt Tabor and Milt agrees. He said, "I don't think Dave ever spoke to Henry Allen--if he could avoid it."

With all good wishes,



AML:fmb

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

STATE OF KANSAS



FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

DAVE LEAHY
DIRECTOR
PRATT, KANSAS

August 16, 1956

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Sun & Headlights
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:

I have just read the reprint of your editorial in the Topeka Daily Capital. With customary genius you again hit the nail on the head.

This campaign was terrible and too much was said by newspapers without getting facts. I am glad to note your forthright stand in the determination to correct some of these abuses. There are certainly many things news reporters can dig up much more interesting than statements from this and that irresponsible. Now, if you will start a campaign about the use of the word 'blast', so prevalent in headline usage today, then you will be on the way to meriting a Pulitzer prize.

Incidentally, the P & M Coal Company has turned over to us 84 acres of their land in Cherokee County which we propose to use for an improved fishing area. This is in keeping with the promise the coal company made to us when we met in Pittsburg some time ago. The more of these that we can procure, the greater will be our efforts in improving fishing in Southeast Kansas.

My warmest personal regards and congratulations on your editorial stand.

Yours truly,

Dave
Dave Leahy
Director

DL/ba



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

STATE OF KANSAS



FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

DAVE LEAHY
DIRECTOR
PRATT, KANSAS

August 20, 1956

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Sun & Headlight
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

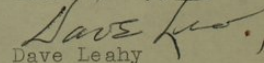
The Soil Bank Bill, especially that part of the bill which applies to conservation acreage, provides for a forestry option.

Noone yet seems to have all the answers as to how this bill is going to work but the thought occurred to me that if the forestry clause is being interpreted broadly, it might be an opportunity to get some of the strip pit lands planted to forestry.

I don't know how much of that land is given over to agriculture by the operating coal companies but it strikes me that this is a matter that could well concern the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. Why don't you put a burr under their tail and see what they can get done through Congressman George? He certainly would be in a position to advise whether the law applies to such areas and what procedure is necessary to get some work done if the laws are applicable.

I was glad to have your letter and to note that you still have a trip up to the Marais Des Cygnes Refuge in mind. I was hoping that we would have some rain long before this to put some water in those two lakes that we have so far constructed. We plan to get another one underway in a short time.

Yours truly,


Dave Leahy
Director



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Kansas State College

Manhattan, Kansas

Technical Journalism

October 3, 1956

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

Dear Fred:

We would like very much to have you speak to our journalism students some Thursday afternoon this year at 4 o'clock. Open dates on our schedule include October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 13, January 10, and almost any Thursday you might mention in February, March and April, except the Thursday before Easter Sunday.

I believe you are chairman of the Freedom of Information committee of the Kansas Press Association this year. For that reason we are especially eager to have you speak to our students. If you can be here I hope you will come prepared to spend the evening with us in my home or one of the other faculty homes. The boys like to have these informal evenings with professional journalists so they will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Please let me hear from you.

Cordially,

Ralph R. Lashbrook
Ralph R. Lashbrook, Head
Technical Journalism

RRL/cs

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 8, 1956

Ralph R. Lashbrook
Department of Journalism
Kansas State College
Manhattan, Kas.

Dear Ralph:

Thanks for the invitation to speak to your students and to spend an evening with you all. I will accept the invitation but I cannot give you the date. Suppose we decide that it should be one of the Thursdays in February and you bring it up again with me along in January. There is too much on hand for me for the rest of this year and I think that by February I will have a little time to spare.

Thanks again and looking forward to a visit with you.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THIRD DISTRICT

KANSAS WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

The Crawford County Women's Republican Club will be the hostess club. The meeting will be a luncheon at the Hotel Besse, Collegiate Room, 12:30 P.M., Saturday, October 20th; Warren Shaw will be the speaker. All candidates present will be introduced. Tickets are \$1.50. Reservations must be in by October 16th. Mrs. Harvey Burns, Girard, is chairman of the ticket committee.

Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I can't think of anything else to add to the above at this time. I have been told Senator Carlson, Mr. George and some of the State officials will be present but have received no confirmation at this time. I will add, for your information only, that I was told little Bill is really interested in this meeting. He has not called me, and I know he won't. His method is different. He will slip around to get what information he can without calling me. Of course, that suits me just fine! He told Mrs. Weaver he was so glad she was having this meeting as there had been such a little activity in this County. I wonder who he thinks should plan the activity? He sure can't take any credit for this meeting, but I wouldn't be afraid to bet he will try. He asked her all about the plans---who would be the speaker---and who was coming. He was delighted that Mr. Shaw had been invited to be the speaker. I would not be surprised to hear that he will try to get credit for the invitation, but it definitely was extended by Mrs. Medill, Independence, who is third vice-president of the Kansas Women's Republican Club. She asked him at the Fourth District meeting in Wichita. I have asked Mrs. Weaver to give the welcoming speech because she is the president of the Crawford County Club, and the vice-chairman will introduce the county candidates. If anything happens that either of them are unable to do this little job I'll call on other women to do it---not our County chairman. When asked what I was going to let Bill do I replied, "Buy a ticket if he wants to see the show." It is my opinion his presence will not add a thing, nor his absence be noticed.

I did not try to write the article for the paper as I know you have a certain style you would rather use. If I have neglected to add any facts you think are necessary please call me and I'll be glad to give them or hunt the answers for you. Thank you very much for taking care of this for me. I do appreciate it. I am expected to send a notice to all the Third District papers, but I thought I'd just send them a clipping from this paper with a note asking them if they would like to announce it. I'm sure they could not improve on anything you would publish.

Sincerely,
Mildred
Mildred Ligon

STATE OF KANSAS



FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

DAVE LEAHY
DIRECTOR

PRATT, KANSAS

November 19, 1956

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Editor
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:

Progress toward the completion of the Marais des
Cygnes Waterfowl project is continuing.

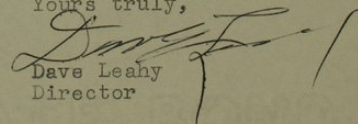
This week we signed a contract with the Lingenfelter
Construction Company of Kansas City to build what
we refer to in our planning as Unit "G". This unit
entails considerable dyking to form a body of water
covering 400 surface acres. This is about a mile
northwest of Boicourt. Work on this unit should get
underway within the next 15 or 20 days and is
scheduled for completion May 1.

This represents the third lake on the area. The
two others have been built previously and were
designed to impound 400 and 600 acres of water.

This should be of interest, Fred, to Southeast
Kansas sportsmen, many of whom have not only enthus-
iastically applauded, but have been very helpful to
us in getting this job along as far as it has so
far come.

The Bourbon County Lake proposal is progressing satis-
factorily and I will give you a story on that in
a few days. There are certain legal matters that
must be attended to before any story is released.

Yours truly,



Dave Leahy
Director

DL/ba



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

November 18, 1957

Mr. Thomas McNally
November 18, 1957

Mr. Thomas McNally, Chairman of the Board
The McNally Pittsburg Mfg. Corporation
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Tom: I am going to prevent the labor union from having
in and taking over a political party, like they have the

Sorry to be so slow in answering your letter of November
5th.

As far as me being "tender on the subject of labor", I have
said publicly and privately to some of the labor leaders
for some 15 years that they were making the same mistake
that business had made too frequently, of pursuing a "public"
be damned" policy.

At the last session of the legislature the farm group asked
me to appear before them and discuss the right-to-work legis-
lation. The ^{labor} farm leaders were all there - some half dozen or
more. I handed them a copy of my talk in July 1954 urging a
return to the old industrial court, and went on to say that I
could remember when a little coal operator in Crawford County
could not get freight cars spotted for his production unless
he stood in with the railroads and when the big shippers got
"rebates". The Interstate Commerce Act was passed to correct
that, in order to protect the public and business. Then we
passed the SEC and FPC to protect the stockholders and the
public. Now we should pass regulatory Acts to protect the
members of the labor union and the public.

In my talk opposing right-to-work legislation I suggested a
return to the old industrial court idea by our state. I
doubt now whether the industrial court idea would be effective
for the same reason that I don't think the right-to-work
legislation is effective; i.e. under the Supreme Court of the
United States decisions the scope of Interstate Commerce has
been extended to include practically all business.

Labor unions are now an unregulated monopolistic power. But
that can only be dealt with by federal legislation that is
not punitive. I realize the difficulty of regulating human
beings as compared with ^{corporations} ~~corporate~~ - of suppressing freedom of
speech in fellow Americans - not only under our Constitution
limitations but also without affecting the freedom of speech
of the rest of us.

I don't know when I will be in Pittsburg to pick up that

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Take the matter of labor unions' campaign contributions. How are you going to prevent the labor unions from moving in and taking over a political party, like they have the Democrat Party in Michigan, for instance?

Again, in the matter of regulations it comes down to the appointments. I find both business and labor are afraid that either will dominate any regulatory commissions.

Take the first Wagner Act. It was turned over to labor. Fairly and equitably administered, it could have been a constructive solution of the labor problem. The intent of the Congress in the Taft-Hartley Act is being more fairly interpreted today with due regard to the correlative rights of the public, of labor and of business, than it was by the appointees of President Truman. That same problem would exist in any state commission.

The top lawyers here in Topeka that I have talked to who are familiar with labor matters - do not think the right-to-work law settles anything; if for no other reason than the Interstate Commerce feature. I am referring to some big corporations' lawyers. For instance, Clayton Kline appeared before the House Committee in 1953 in opposition to the pending right-to-work bill.

As far as its effect on industry is concerned, two of the biggest plants that have been located in Kansas are the DuPont plant in Topeka and the Delco-Remy plant in Olathe. Both were located in 1956 - prior to the defeat of Governor Hall in the Republican Primary.

Finally, in regard to the interview you mention, I was asked my position by a reporter on the right-to-work legislation. I have yet to refuse to state my position on any issue or any candidate when I have been asked.

I think in the labor unions we need leaders with a sense of public responsibility just as we need them in business. And I don't think the answer lies in forcing labor back to the guerilla warfare of the past.

I don't know when I will be in Pittsburg to pick up that

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luncheon date. Hope you will give me a ring when you
are in Topeka and let me have the pleasure of a visit
with you once again.

All good wishes,

cc. m. hudson

P.S. All of the above does not take into consideration
the fact that detailed legislation of this kind has no
business in the Constitution.

cc. Fred Brinkerhoff

AML LW

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

May 21, 1958

PERSONAL

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
The Headlight
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

Consider the following facts:

1. Judge Mellott went to Mayo's a year ago. Since then we have been limping along with one judge.
 2. Governor Arn was checked by the FBI four times. A good Washington reporter advised me that "his file is the longest in the history of the Justice Department on a Federal District Judge appointment".
 3. Three weeks before I issued my statement the Star reported that Arn was eliminated. No other name had been checked. Neither Senator had even announced his recommendation of Mr. Arn - or anyone else.
 4. On the day I gave my interview the Kansas City Times carried a story from their Washington Bureau that it would be several weeks before another name would be considered for the Federal District Judge in Kansas.
 5. Congress is going to recess early - this being a campaign year. Several weeks' delay would mean almost a certainty that the Senate Judiciary Committee would not get around to considering the appointment and the Senate voting on it before the recess. That would mean we would not have an appointment for another District Judge until Congress reconvened after the November election - which would probably throw it into 1959.
 6. If you read the editorial in the Capital this morning you will see how crowded the docket is despite Senator Schoeppel's statement that it is "up".
- If that does not constitute a "scandalous" block to justice in Kansas I don't know what would.
- I may say that during the Bar Association Convention I talked with many lawyers. You know most of the older ones. Several of them used that adjective. They all were extremely critical at the delay in naming the new Federal District Judge. Both Jim McKay and Dallas Knapp commented that the

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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way Judge Hill was working to try to keep the docket up we might have another vacancy.

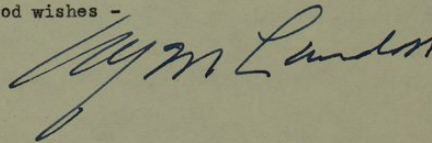
The FBI man was in this afternoon but missed me. He left word that he wanted to talk to me about this Federal Judgeship and would be back. Maybe I did "lambast the two Senators into action".

Alvin McCoy wrote me as of Monday that a new Judge would be named this week. At least Carlson's office announced Saturday that he and Schoeppel would go into a huddle Monday with Darby to discuss another name.

Yesterday morning there was a short AP dispatch to the effect that Senator Schoeppel's office had said there were some 10 names being considered. I am informed that the Justice Department and the FBI only check one name at a time. The Senators for some strange reason seem to be trying to avoid a public statement of their recommendation.

I intended to write you today anyhow. We have another strange situation in Kansas public affairs. No candidate has announced for the vacancy on the Supreme Court ticket. Yesterday I was visiting with Walter Thiele. We were discussing that fact. As Walter said, we ought to have a Justice from Southeastern Kansas. I asked him who would make a good man. He suggested a young lawyer in A. B. Keller's office. I think the name is Wilbur. I don't know him. If you care to interest yourself I wish you would find out whether he is interested in a judicial career or not. If he is, I think the time would be ripe.

With all good wishes -



AML LW

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 23, 1958

Alf M. Landon
1001 Fillmore St.
Topeka, Kas.

Dear Alf:

Several months ago I had the information that Arn had been recommended. Also I had the information that the department of justice was working on his case and the F. B. I. was in action. I was also advised, just as you have stated, that the department works on one man at a time. Still further, I learned that the reports were not satisfactory to the department. A month ago in Washington I learned that Arn was out--and I understood it was not because of political activity. There was no surprise to me in the story that came along that Arn was out.

With the mechanism used, an investigation by the department of justice using the F. B. I., I don't believe that as a senator I would have announced that I recommended a man. Having a man I recommended turned down for some reason or other would not be fair to the man and I would consider that it would be unfair and embarrassing to me. I do not blame the senators for not making a public announcement that they had recommended Arn. I think it is clear that the blame for the long delay lies with the department of justice and that even Arn's attempt to lay the thing at the White House door is unfair.

From my viewpoint now, I believe it would have been best for the senators and for Darby had they announced they were recommending Arn. That would have relieved them of the responsibility and it would have shown the public who was causing the delay. So I believe that if either one of the senators had frankly announced to the public that he had recommended somebody and let the selectee take the chance of being embarrassed by a turndown, it would have been better for the senator. Of course, we know that Ed was not rejected because of political activity. That is the easiest thing for the department to say.

Incidentally, I think I will write to Ed and tell him if he needs any affirmation of the statement that he was very active for Eisenhower, I will give a deposition or an affidavit. He

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Alf M. Landon--2--May 23, 1958

threw the whole force of his administration and a good deal of expense into forcing friends of mine in this district to beat me for delegate in 1952. You may have known about this. In two or three counties we ran into the demand of Arn of various party officials that they beat me. They said it was because I was supporting Taft. I have never been ashamed of nor have I regretted my attitude then. Ed went clear beyond the call of duty to force a Kansas delegation for Ike.

I think this vacancy should have been filled long ago. But I do not think the vacancy is as serious as you think it is. I am not impressed by the lawyers who talk to me and apparently those who talked to you. Very few lawyers ever get in a hurry.

I talked to the young lawyer down here to whom you refer about the state bench place. He would be an excellent candidate and a most excellent jurist. But he is not interested in the job. He would be a good federal judge, too, but that apparently is beyond possibility.

Thanks for writing me and with kindest regards.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS I will probably be in Topeka next Tuesday and may have a chance to see you.

FWB

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

June 18, 1958

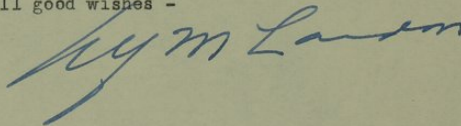
Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Headlight & Sun
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

Naturally I was happy at the compliments you pay me in your editorial "Landon for Reed". But even more than that was the pleasure of realizing that the Old Master has not lost his touch. You can really write.

Sorry not to have seen you when you were in town.

With all good wishes -



AML LW

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

December 12, 1958

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Pub. Company
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

Thank you for sending me your bully editorial.

I remember saying to Walter Fees some years ago when he called me about the slate for Kansas Day, "They are the same old names. Get some young fellows in".

The enclosed covers the same ground you do and more. It can be summed up in a nutshell. The Republican Party has (1) the tag of an anti-labor party with one group; (2) the tag of an anti-farmer party with another group; (3) a stand for nothing different on basic issues than the Democrats - with another large group.

Ohio is Exhibit A. The regulatory right-to-work legislation was passed in 1947. It was made an issue and especially Taft in his campaign for re-election in 1948. Yet Taft won by a big vote and got a whopping vote in industrial towns and labor precincts. A lot of labor and especially their relatives felt that the unions needed some legislation but right-to-work was a "hoss" of a different color. It was an attack on the basic principle and structure of unionism. Even if successful it is like the old story of the Union soldier in the tag end of the Civil War leveling his gun on an old, ragged, half-starved Confederate hiding in some bushes and yelling at him, "Come on out - I've got you". The Confederate came out, saying, "Yes, you've got me, but a hell of a get you've got".

Both Bricker and O'Neil tried to keep right-to-work from being an issue in Ohio in this campaign. Knowland as Republican leader of the Senate dramatized the position of the Republican Party all over the country.

But the most discouraging thing to me are the interpretations being placed by Republican leaders on the last election results. Last Saturday the chairman of the Senate Campaign Committee listed the following factors as contributing to the defeat of the Republican Party in the last election:

- A. Distrust of the national defense program.
- B. Rising prices.
- C. Foreign policy.
- D. Lack of contribution to the Party's coffers.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
December 12, 1968
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The same day the Republican leader of the Senate in his post-election interview said the reorganization of the Republican Party had to begin at the state and county level with professional full-time help, that the GOP begin now its search for photogenic candidates. He listed the following factors for the Republican defeat:

- A. Economic recession.
- B. Dismay over Soviet technical progress in the satellite field.
- C. The affair of Sherman Adams.
- D. Dissatisfaction of the farmers in some areas.

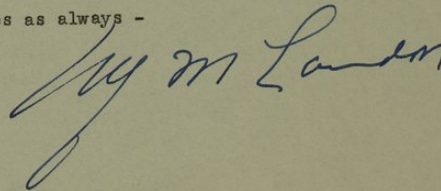
Postmaster-General Summerfield seemed to think we had to carry on a campaign against organized labor.

The county chairman of Sedgwick County after the election continued the attack on "those who control our great labor organizations in America and if your blood doesn't run cold then I will miss my guess".

I think both Senator Schoeppel and Senator Knowland mentioned factors that contributed to the last election disaster. But I think the points I have listed are the key ones.

I wrote Clyde Reed, Jr. complimenting him on his talk last Saturday and expressed the wish that we had had more of that in the last campaign. Incidentally, I also made the same point to Clyde when he talked to me about his campaign last January that you do in your excellent editorial - that the nominee is going to be confronted with rebuilding the party organization from the ground up and that was an extremely difficult thing for a candidate to do.

With best wishes as always -



AML LW

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

November 5, 1958

Mr. Robert Humphreys, Executive Director
Republican National Committee
1625 I Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Bob:

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Three weeks ago in talking with Alfred G. Hill of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, I said to him that I was going to be writing you this kind of a letter after the election and asked him to have a visit with you the next time he was in Washington. Mr. Hill is an ex-Kansan - an old friend - a successful newspaper publisher. He and I had several talks on his recent annual visit to Kansas.

It's folly for the Republicans to dismiss yesterday's results by saying the same thing happened to us in the early 30's. The basis of comparison is wrong. In the 30's we were in the midst of a tremendous depression. Yesterday we were in the midst of an economic recovery from a slump.

In the 30's we were in as disastrous a national drouth as the country ever suffered. Black blizzards winter after winter in all the high plain area.

The following are the basic reasons I believe for the collapse of the Republican Party:

1. Mr. Coolidge vetoed the McNary-Hagan Bill. So did Mr. Hoover after calling a special session in May 1929 to deal with the farm problem.
2. I don't mean to say that the McNary-Hagan Bill was the solution of that problem. Neither was the Democrat farm legislation. But the Roosevelt approach was sympathetic in their personal contacts. All the farm leaders felt they had a friend in the White House. They did not get that impression out of their personal contacts with Mr. Hoover or Secretary of Agriculture Hyde. The farmers believed that the different Democrat attempts to solve the farm problem were positive while the Republican attitude was negative. That laid the basis for the distrust of the Republican Party among the farmers which still exists.

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2. The same situation exists with labor. You may remember that at Des Moines I finally blew up and said to the Republican County Chairman, "My God, aren't there any laboring men in Des Moines for me?" "Why, yes," they said. "Why didn't you have some of them down here to meet me when I came in and represented on the reception committee?" I asked. Then I had a visit with some of them in my room. That situation existed wherever I went.

The Democrat Party has been shaking hands with labor and waving at the proprietors while the Republican Party has been shaking hands with the proprietors and waving at labor.

As I said in my talks opposing the right-to-work amendment in Kansas - it is more emotional than realistic. It does not solve the questions of violence, secondary boycotting, hot cargo. There are a lot of decent union members that wanted protection against the looting of their organization funds - who realize that the leaders had become too arrogant and were out of step with public thinking and wanted better enforcement of the present laws.

But they believed the right-to-work laws - backed by Republicans - were an attack on their basic union structure. That solidified the labor vote. The attacks on Reuther have made him a hero. Instead of dehorning him it has enthroned him stronger than ever.

Under the economic conditions I have mentioned the Democrat avalanche takes on added significance. Labor's influence in the Democrat Party will be greater than even heretofore.

I find an illustration of what I am trying to analyze in the difference between McMillan's leadership of the Tory Party in England - his attitude on human relations - and his predecessors.

3. Despite the Country Club--Chamber of Commerce - for want of a better all-inclusive term - Republican leadership, our Party is not even a good conservative party. Despite all our talk about the radical Democrats, can we call ourselves a sound-money party? To me, that's a basic issue. We're losing the fight to Communism, not because of the

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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November 5, 1958
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ineptness of our Secretary of State or our Defense Department, but through the debasement of the American dollar. Financial writers are already talking about the flight from the dollar. What's it going to be when it slides to 40¢ and where is it going to stop?

We are in a new world not only of the jets, nuclear energies but of human relations and the Republican Party are simply not in step. To me, all this agitation about right-to-work legislation is like a highly trained bird dog on the first day of the quail season chasing off after rabbits instead of pointing the birds.

To me, the significance of the New York election was not a "battle of millionaires" as much as it was the long good record of the Rockefeller boys in human relations. For instance, the Standard Oil of New Jersey was the first company to bring the 8-hour day into the oil field. I can remember when theological colleges refused the Senior John D.'s contributions some 50-odd years ago.

In 1934 and '36 I defended the capitalistic - when that was a word most politicians were afraid to use in those days - system. I said then that inflation would be like a whirlpool and we would have to not only have a balanced budget but a return to the gold standard to prevent it.

Sylvia Porter who has been warning the country of the dangers of inflation for the last few months writes me as follows:

"There is no question about the danger of inflation and the problem it imposes in this country, but I doubt, Governor, if a return to the gold standard is a practical answer at this late stage. Now we must seek other solutions, but I have a feeling that the American public is awakening to the importance of this problem on a scale we have never seen before - and when the average person begins to care, something will be done."

Neither party is adequately meeting the issues that threaten to destroy our country internally.

Finally, I have had plenty of union men say to me in recent years, "Governor, I am a Republican. I would like to vote the Republican