

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

### Section 144, Pages 4291 - 4320

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.

Date: 1909-1966

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## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Parsons, Kansas, January 7, 1950.

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:--

I beg leave to write you, as briefly as possible, some ideas of the coming campaign inasmuch as your name has been favorably mentioned as a candidate for governor.

Certainly, I think you are fine material for consideration for that important position and if you wish to become a candidate and can see your way to success I wish you the best of luck.

However, I had been impressed by the prospect of having Mayberry for the nomination, with you for lieutenant governor, with a nomination for governor, for you, in the future. I still think you two are the best prospects for the two positions, and it might be well for the both of you to work out a joint arrangement as to which should try for the head of the ticket and which for the second place, with both in harmony on this point. Then present a formidable combination that would be unbeatable, in August.

With the thought of Mayberry before your name was publicly mentioned I was all for him and thought of you as lieutenant governor. We do need a high type man in that position and I think that is often lost sight of. I have been much disappointed with the present lieutenant governor and feel he is much to blame for the failure to have the rural school reorganization law we need so badly. I have learned much to confirm that opinion and it shows how much power for good or evil that position holds in the stranglehold it has on legislation and there is likely much in other lines of lawmaking where he has rendered the state a disservice.

It would seem that Mayberry has a definite start on the gubernatorial front, although he has not definitely announced as a candidate. I have had considerable correspondence with him and have tried to acquaint him with the school matter. He has expressed great interest but does not yet want to commit himself and I approve the caution he seems to be using.

I have tried to get him to come to Parsons in connection with his non-partisan trips over the state to be a guest at our Methodist Men's Luncheon meetings we have on the second and fourth Tuesdays we have each month. I am now trying for a definite date and hope to have him with us at noon Tuesday, January 24th. It would be fine if we could have you with us at the same time, if you care to come and can be with us.

Further, if you care for it I would also like to have present "Bill" Blair, of Oswego and Junior Reed, of Parsons, and then have an informal conference in the afternoon to go over some of the state campaign situations such as may be developed by that time.

I believe there is definite need of much better state government than we have been getting with some forward looking ideas of improvement in politics and administration. Really we have not had any progress since the days of William Allen White and there is so much to work over in party and state government, some of which can be done under the present constitution and some of which needs new constitutional authority which calls for a constitutional convention, but that needs care of the best kind.

I believe there is a chance for a strong segment of the party to form a working nucleus and there is no better group to take the leadership than the better minded newspaper men of the state. If any one bunch is to predominate in state affairs it would seem to be the newspaper men are best fitted for leadership. I have always felt the legislature is topheavy with lawyers and the charge that they legislate to promote litigation and to make business for themselves is a matter for consideration. It has been true in the school legislation that I have been interested in. There is a formidable so-called "Rural Schools Association," nominally headed by an illiterate lobbyist from Elsmore, in Allen County, but actually headed by a shrewd scheming lawyer from Topeka who has fattened on the litigation made possible by the chaotic condition of rural schools in Kansas. There is with them a mixed membership of reactionary rural school provincialists and a rather fine set of honest country people who have been antagonized by the mistakes made by the small towns trying to force unwilling rural school districts into unwelcome consolidations with insolvent small town school systems to bolster up their revenues at the expense of the adjacent rural territory. All this has scared the administrative and legis-



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

TO MR. BRINKERHOFF-From C.E. Rench, -1/7/50-Page 2.

lative authorities and made them unwilling to enact the simple, sensible reorganization law that the Constitution very plainly makes possible, with a minimum of verbiage.

I have been very much disappointed with the governor and am sending you copy of a recent contribution to the State Journal on the subject. I sent a copy of it to the governor with a personal appeal to translate his fine lip service into action, but got a friendly but non-committal reply in which he still sticks to the idea of voluntary consolidations, which are impossible. I then wrote him asking that he give me a chance to go over the matter with him and the Attorney General and State Supt. Throckmorton and outline a new airtight, foolproof law that will stand all tests of constitutionality. That, otherwise, I could not see that he deserves any consideration for advancement in public life, and that if I couldn't hear from him in a reasonable time I would try to be resourceful and do anything I could to promote good government through other sources. I have not heard from him and feel completely off him in every respect, including his present lieutenant governor, who has had a stranglehold on needed legislation, not only in school matters, but, in all likelihood, in other important matters. Last winter I was at Topeka a number of times, watching the wheels go 'round and the gladhanding governor received me very cordially, but said the legislature was busy with the financing problems of the schools but when that was arranged for they would consider reorganization and he had instructed his Chairmen of Education in both Houses to take it up and I could expect results. After that I could not get to see him and I tried to get Chairman Ruppenthal of the Education Committee of the Senate to let me have a hearing and appear before the Committee. He wrote me a very insulting letter and said it was too late to do anything and that the Committee had all the information they needed. In the meantime I could see that the Topeka Lawyer, Malone, and the illiterate Sharp from Elsmore seemed to have access to Education Committeemembers of both houses and after the adjournment the Rural School Journal, organ of the Rural Association, boasted of their influence with the legislators in preventing any reorganization legislation.

I have gone to length, doubtless to your annoyance, to dwell on this apparently unimportant feature but it seems a big part of the incompetence of state government under present conditions.

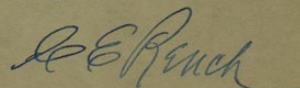
I do hope you and Mayberry and a forward looking group can see your way to join up in a real effort to have better legislative and administrative government in Kansas, in many ways. The one thing to look out for is to keep from having the good element divided up between rival candidacies. This is a favorite trick of the bad elements who may not have an actual majority to encourage a lot of good candidates to kill each other off in a primary election where the plurality candidate wins without getting a majority party nomination. I saw a few days ago that a group of Republicans in Montgomery County is pushing a Mr. Woods of Independence for Governor, and it behooves good material like you and Mayberry to join forces or some unworthy man like Hagaman can slip in with a mere plurality vote.

I doubtless could say much more but this may already be too lengthy for your patience.

I wish to thank you for the space you gave my survey of rural schools in your Sun issue of Nov. 29th, and I wish to have you thank Mr. Taylor for his well written article. I was in your office for a few minutes, Dec. 7th, after I had attended the funeral of a postal friend, Roscoe Hudson, near Weir, and secured copies of the rural school article and the death announcement of Hudson's, but neither you nor Mr. Taylor was in the office.

With kindest regards and the hope I may soon see you, I am,  
C.E. Rench,  
2511 Broadway,  
Parsons, Kansas.

Yours,





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Jan. 11, 1950

C. F. Rensch  
2511 Broadway  
Parsons, Kas.

Dear Mr. Rensch:

Thanks for your interesting letter of Jan. 7. I appreciate your reference to me but I am not at all interested in the lieutenant governorship and I could become interested in the governorship only under certain conditions. Many things are needed in Kansas government. And unless some Republicans are able to do the job, eventually it will be done after a fashion by the Democrats. It is not easy to persuade a lot of our fellows who imagine they are powerful leaders that this is the truth.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4th Dist. Kansas

COMMITTEES:  
CIVIL SERVICE  
IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION

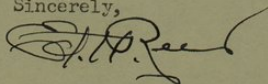
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  
Saturday Afternoon.

Dear Fred:

Thanks for your editorial. It is good of you. Sorry I did not have more of a chance to talk with you while you were in Washington.

Am enclosing a tear sheet from the Record. It concerns a statement <sup>in support</sup> of an amendment I offered to further limit the payemnts under the AAA program. My amendment would not injure anyone. The "little fellow" would get just as much (~~xxx~~ in many cases more). My amendment would have saved approximately \$40,000,000. Am going to have something further to say on this subject matter later on.

Sincerely,





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 5, 1950

E. H. Rees  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ed:

A prominent Democrat came in to tell me that there was a move on among Democrats to push for another district federal judge in Kansas, No. 3. Maybe you have heard about it. This was the first I had heard. This Democrat wanted me to drop the word that the movement was on to some of you. I am dropping a note to Andy about it.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTED  
Post Office and Civil Service

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  
August 4, 1950

Dear Fred:

I am enclosing a copy of a statement I made yesterday wherein I tried to limit the number of employees who would be hired in new jobs created under the new legislation for annual salaries of as much as \$14,000. You can see the sky is the limit in the event the Administration wants to use it.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

ED. H. REES.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:  
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

August 8, 1950

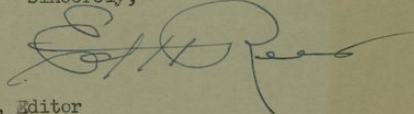
Dear Fred:

Your letter is the first intimation I have had that there might be a move for another federal judge in Kansas.

Of course I am opposed to such move and shall resist it in the event it is made.

Thanking you for writing me, and with kind personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff, Editor  
The Pittsburg Headlight  
Pittsburg, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

R

Aug. 17, 1950

E. H. Rees  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ed:

Thought you might be interested in the enclosed editorial on the Kansas political situation. It is all right for the so-called powers to proscribe me or any other Kansas Republican because he acted as he saw fit. But they cannot set up a new way to run the Republican party in Kansas with a board of directors and silence me.

More than ever I want you fellows to bear in mind what I said last winter about setting up organizations to run your own campaigns. It is not going to be an easy campaign in Kansas with Harry determined to show his power in the state--Harry Truman, I mean.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:  
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

*R*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

August 21, 1950

Dear Fred:

I appreciate very much your sending me the editorial on the Kansas political situation. Like you, I am not in favor of any board telling the candidates or the people how the political program should be operated. I recall the suggestion you made several months ago that it would be well for me to run my own campaign. You will also be interested in knowing that I have usually followed that policy.

I appreciate the editorial with regard to the mail situation. Of course I voted against it. I am enclosing a copy of one of the statements I made at the time it was considered. The pressure for rescinding the order did not come from the patrons. It came, as you know, from the organizations that headed up the postal organizations. Certainly right now is not the time to spend the extra 70 million dollars. I have just clipped an editorial from the Washington Daily News on this subject matter. It will be placed in the Congressional Record. A copy of it is enclosed.

I think I sent you a copy of a statement I made on the floor of the House several days ago. I had another one run off for you. I thought you might like to glance it over. I am going to make another speech during this week with respect to the manner in which federal funds are being manipulated and used.

I think you know that the present authorization bill and appropriation bill includes a lot of money to start flood control projects in Kansas. That may be alright in normal times, but this is not the time to demand that Congress appropriate money not absolutely needed.

Thanking you for writing me, I remain

Sincerely,

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Co.  
Pittsburg, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

R  
Fred

August 22, 1950

Senator A.F.Schoeppel  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C.

Dear Andy,

Thanks for your note of August 11th about your blocking the greasy pork in Texas. I heard over the radio in Texas about this. Congratulations upon this stand.

One thing that has brought this country to its sorry state is the people judging its Congressmen and Senators by the amount of greasy pork he brings home. That is plenty hard on a patriotic conscientious public official. Enclosed is an editorial entitled "Getting Things" by Rolla Clymer quoting from Fred Brinkerhoff, relating to the late and unlamented Senator Thomas in this connection.

Last night I was elected Pratt County Republican Central Committee's chairman. You know I don't want the job. My candidate was a young veteran but he would not accept. If I hadn't taken the job, there was a fellow, at hand, who really wanted it. This man is a novice and would have done the Party no good.

The Republican organization in Pratt County is in a sorry state. What I can do about it, I don't know. But I am giving it a whirl.

I arrive at the Jayhawk, Sunday night, August 27th and will be there through August 30th. I am hoping you can come and bring Marie.

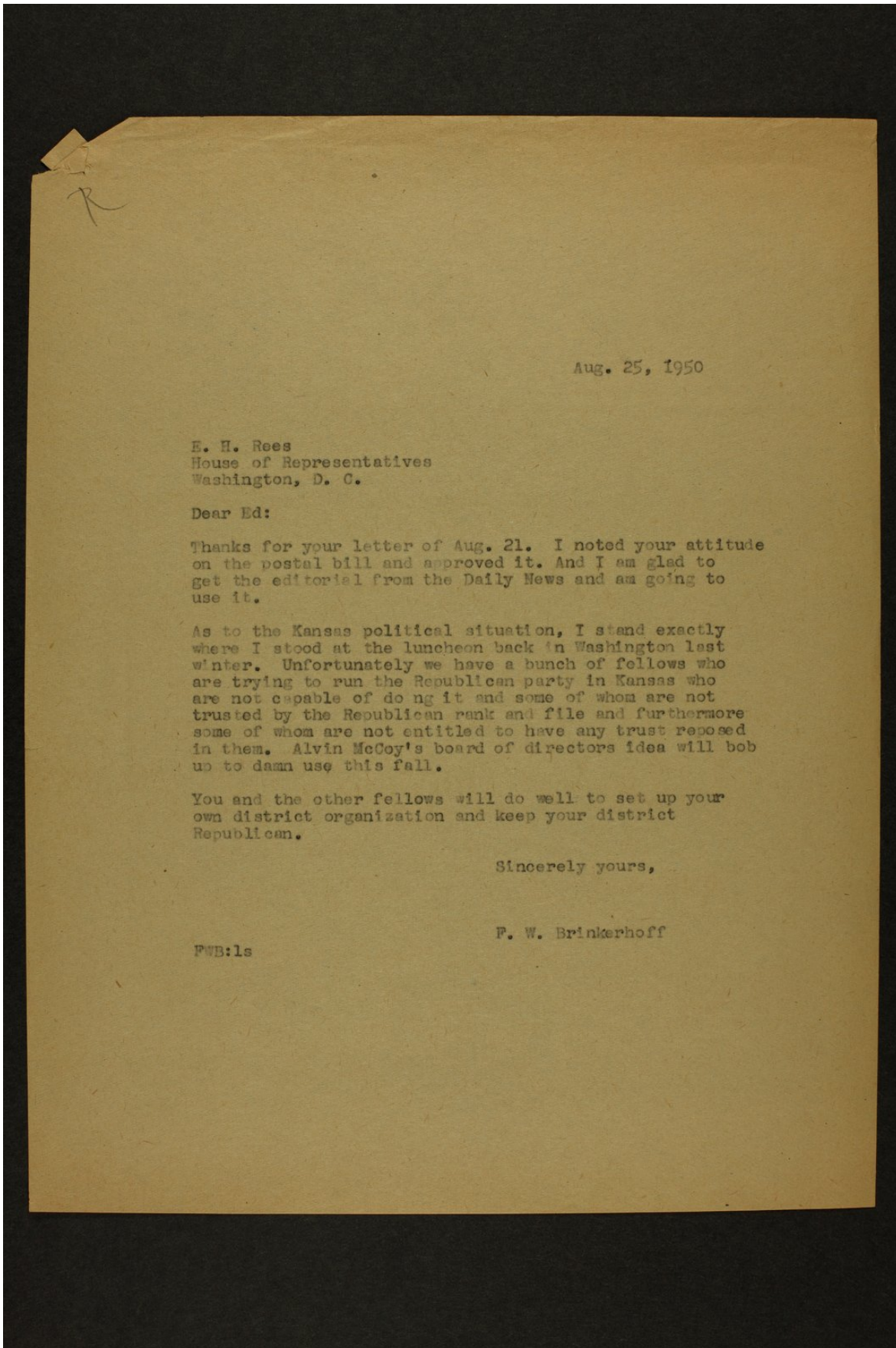
Mary is not sure if she can come to Topeka this time but she is going to try.

Sincerely yours,

RWR:bd

Richard W. Robbins

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



Aug. 25, 1950

E. H. Rees  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ed:

Thanks for your letter of Aug. 21. I noted your attitude on the postal bill and approved it. And I am glad to get the editorial from the Daily News and am going to use it.

As to the Kansas political situation, I stand exactly where I stood at the luncheon back in Washington last winter. Unfortunately we have a bunch of fellows who are trying to run the Republican party in Kansas who are not capable of doing it and some of whom are not trusted by the Republican rank and file and furthermore some of whom are not entitled to have any trust reposed in them. Alvin McCoy's board of directors idea will bob up to damn use this fall.

You and the other fellows will do well to set up your own district organization and keep your district Republican.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls





## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:  
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  
August 25, 1950

Dear Fred:

I am enclosing a tear sheet from the Congressional Record of Thursday, August 24. I thought you would be interested in an amendment that I proposed and which was adopted by the Armed Services Committee to a dependency benefit bill then under consideration. The amendment establishes collection procedures for erroneous payments, permitting waiver of indebtedness by the Comptroller General in hardship cases. This amendment will assure recovery to the United States Government of many millions of dollars which have been paid in error.

You will be interested in the comments by the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee with regard to my action in bringing about the adoption of the amendment.

The section placed in the original bill does not relate to the Korean War, but to erroneous payments made following World War II. The section would have given the Armed Services authority to write off the overpayments without a requirement that either equity or hardship be shown. It would also eliminate the part the Comptroller General is presently playing in collecting back erroneous payments.

I think you will be interested in knowing that under an arrangement worked out by the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee following investigation of the Army Finance Center at St. Louis, these payments are presently being repaid at the rate of \$100,000 per month. It is estimated there will be a recovery of \$65,000,000.

This is just one of a procession of measures that come before Congress under the guise of Korean War emergency measures, but contain provisions totally unrelated to the war effort.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Headlight  
Pittsburgh, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:  
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D. C.**

August 28, 1950

Dear Fred:

I am enclosing a tear sheet from Saturday's Record that contains some of the statements I made on the floor of the House in connection with the supplemental appropriations bill.

One of the reasons why I knew you would be interested in the clipping from the Daily News is that I have insisted that in view of the condition of our Treasury, and considering the critical situation of our country, no appropriations should be allowed for new projects except where absolutely necessary. You can understand, too, that the problem becomes a little more acute when I oppose these projects and then because of pressure from the state, some of my own colleagues go to the Appropriations Committee and insist that a few million dollars be included in the bill so that the projects may be started. Of course when one begins, Congress is required to continue to appropriate until the jobs are completed.

You will notice in one of the statements I am enclosing I tried to strike out an item of \$2,900,000. The item does not belong in the emergency appropriations bill. A few members in the Northwest district got it put in the bill to start the project. The whole thing will cost 30 or 50 million dollars and will not be completed for four years. Of course there are plenty of items of this kind in the big appropriations bill that was completed last week.

This is sort of rambling, but I thought it wouldn't hurt to mention it to you.

I am sorry I can't be in Topeka tomorrow, but the legislative program is such that I must remain here for the present.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff  
Pittsburg Publishing Co.  
Pittsburg, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 13, 1950

Lon Richards, President  
United Trades & Labor Council  
Pittsburg, Kas.

Dear Lon:

I have your invitation to a meeting to discuss bringing industries into Pittsburg on Oct. 16. Owing to an engagement that I have had for that night it will not be possible for me to be present. But I am whole heartedly for anything that can be done for the encouragement of the location of industries in our city.

The commission of which I happen to be chairman has sought with its limited funds to do everything it could to accomplish that objective. There are some achievements, as you will know. But the commission's small fund raised from a tax which no longer is being levied cannot do more than care for small items. Some industries could be obtained if we had a building or could erect a building. But it is not possible to put up a building costing \$100,000 on a \$10,000 fund. Some of the cities where industries have been obtained have raised through donations rather large amounts with which to finance their project.

Our commission has sought to guard the funds against the expense of junkets and such like and has done so. Now there is under way the purchase of a prospective industrial district that could provide industrial sites.

For a great many years, as I think you know, I have plugged away at the idea of having small industries established under local ownership. I believe that is the most satisfactory way to develop industries.

I am glad to note that you are taking a lead in this matter. We have long heard the contention that industries would not locate in Pittsburg because of the labor situation. You can hear this point made up and down the street any time you discuss industrial promotion. And there can be no doubt that outside of Pittsburg for a long time the idea has been that the labor situation in Pittsburg ~~has been~~ <sup>is</sup> unfavorable for the establishment and development of industries. I think that you and your associates could accomplish something very much worthwhile if you would formulate and promulgate with the



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Lon Richards--2--Oct. 13, 1950

authority of your organization a sound labor policy and explain it with candor and frankness. This would not only be helpful so far as outsiders are concerned, who show an interest in coming into Pittsburg, but to the business men of all types in Pittsburg who retain this unfavorable idea I have mentioned.

Aside from my responsibilities on this commission I think you know that certainly no one in Pittsburg is more vitally concerned in having industries established and developed in Pittsburg. Surely I do not need to make further explanation of my own personal standing.

It is necessary for me to be absent from the city several days next week following Monday. But I shall be very much interested in knowing what conclusions are reached at this conference.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

EDWARD H. REES  
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:  
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

December 4, 1950

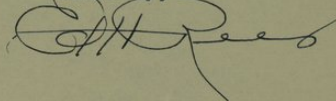
Dear Fred:

I appreciate very much your sending me the copy of the editorial from Friday's issue of your paper. I think you have stated the facts rather clearly, and have sounded a warning that should be heeded by the Republicans of Kansas.

Every Republican candidate for election to Congress had pretty strong opposition, except possibly in the first district. The pluralities added together made a comparatively fair showing.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff  
The Pittsburg Headlight  
Pittsburg, Kansas



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Parsons, Kansas, April 13, 1951.

Mr. Fred. Brinkerhoff,  
Editor Pittsburg Headlight and Sun,  
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:--

A short time ago we had an exchange of correspondence concerning my desire to talk over with you some features of the present state of conditions in Republican Kansas politics and the apparent failure of the new state administration to come up to expectations in the recent legislative session and as to what could be done for the future.

I went over to Pittsburg on Tuesday, April 10, but it was election day and I found you were busy and could not be seen at the time I called. Then, later, after I made some other necessary calls I got so delayed that I had to return on the 4:00PM bus and did not get to see you. Now, I am still anxious to see you, but will try to outline some ideas I have and see you when it is mutually convenient.

I think the state is thoroughly ready for a new survey of conditions and that the state press is the proper medium for getting some ideas over to the state constituency in ample time for future campaigns and legislative sessions. I know there is a latent feeling among the newspaper men of the state for some new approach to the problem of making Kansas a better state in many ways. There is now a general nation-wide feeling that we need a lot of cleaning up. While Kansas is much ahead of the balance of the country we do need some effort to find out "What's The Matter With Kansas," as William Allen White asked so many years ago.

I think you have expressed yourself quite properly in different public expressions and two I have preserved and am enclosing show how you feel. I think the regular professional politicians and the lawyers in the legislature and the office holders of recent years who have been so obsessed with visions of personal advancement that they have overlooked duties right under their feet until it has come to the present situation without any real leadership. I felt a year ago when the lines were shaping up for the 1950 campaign that the state issues were being ignored and that it was all a sham battle for control of the Kansas part in the presidential fight for the National Conventions in 1952, in both parties. Not one of the candidates for governor in either party sensed the opportunity to serve the state where there was so much constructive work to be done. I felt that Governor Carlson had entirely neglected the duties of governor in his absurd effort to fill the place in the U. S. Senate so capably, brilliantly and courageously held by my good friend, Clyde Reed. Carlson spent valuable time in running all over the state and elsewhere, kissing babies, dedicating hen-houses and flag poles and dishing out beans at Legion meetings instead of attending to the pressing duties of improving the rural schools of the state after his fine "lip service" expressed in his February, 1949 statement in the Kansas Government Journal, under the title, "School Problems Need Study." While this was an important duty for him it was only one of many he was amply paid for to look after, but by-passed while he was dreaming of becoming senator.

This suggests one thing that should be done, to automatically prevent the governor from virtually naming himself as U.S. Senator. The governor should be deprived of that authority, by making the filling of a senatorial vacancy an elective matter as in the case of a vacancy in the National House of Representatives as in the case of a vacancy in the National House of Representatives further than that, we should have, not only an honest effectual presidential primary, but also a senatorial primary in the year, ahead of the regular due. These primaries to be held early in the year, ahead of the regular general primary, to enable members of the Lower House in Congress to be-



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

TO MR. FRED BRINKERHOFF, -From C.E. Rensch-4/13/51-Page 2.

come primary candidates for U. S. Senator, without jeopardizing their chances for re-election to Congress in the event of failure in the senatorial primary. We need the opportunity to advance our best congressmen in that way. A study of the giants of the Senate of years ago showed the best of them served first in the Lower House, but the election of senators by voters instead of by the Legislatures has automatically prevented many from advancing to greater usefulness. Many who wished to keep up the old way of electing senator have tried to tell us that the deterioration of senate ability is due to that change but they are mistaken. I think any one of the six district congressmen from Kansas who have served any length of time would be superior to what we are getting now. However, my choice among them would be Ed Rees, and if Carlson had the good sense to select him instead of manipulating things to give it to Darby to hold until he could grab it Kansas would have been in much better shape in the Senate than now.

It is my idea that the governor should have more power in some ways and less in others than now. He should have the power to select the minor state officials and thereby have better selections and give us the short ballot we need. It would be absurd to have us vote on National Secretary of State, either in a national primary or by ballot in a national party convention and the same thing applies to Secretary of State for Kansas, or the other similar state offices. Then have the governor elected for a four year term and ineligible for re-election, and give him a chance to be a high grade governor. And we should select our governors from such material as you, for instance, who comes fresh from the newspaper profession or some similar field instead of what we have been having. A fine four-year service as governor such as you could give would be a satisfaction to you and your family and friends and a record of achievement for students of state history to point to in future years. We have had some such service in the past and some of the other kind.

It is my idea that I might be able to furnish some contributions to a paper like the State Journal, under the supervision of the Stauffer chain with possible circulation somewhat like the Shultz weekly letters. He does a fine job but he is merely a reporter and a good one, but I think there is a chance for one with constructive ideas of improvements in our state service in making Kansas an ideal state and there seems an opportunity for such. Of course some it would be naturally controversial but any discussion of such would be helpful rather than otherwise.

The State Journal has printed almost everything I have offered them and they have done a good job of revising and condensing much that I have written with most satisfactory results for which I have been very grateful. But, of course, it has all been without compensation and I really believe that I could write what would be worth paying for and sell it to any Kansas newspaper that would care for it. There are limitless subjects that should be treated and then, possibly, when the legislature meets, in regular or special session there will be better planned laws for consideration than we have, now. The last session was the occasion for many worth while bills to be introduced only to have them messed over and killed with suspicious pretense. At the same time simple matters of common sense were overlooked. For instance, the school problem in rural districts in which I was most interested could have had real consideration with much increase of efficiency and greatly increased economy. Just a simple thing that could have been done was to eliminate unnecessary election of city officials in either primary or general election. In Parsons we had two pairs of contestants who had to go through both elections with only two candidates to be voted for. We have had a mess in designating our license tags for cars with the result of the present silly combinations of lettering for the counties. Instead, we could have adopted the Kentucky idea of spelling each county in full with a saving of tag material and unnecessary slogans such as the "WHEAT STATE" line, am submitting a clipping on that subject.

Would be glad to have reply with return of enclosures. Yours,  
C.E. Rensch.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

June 9, 1951

Dear Fred:

Kansas City will open its new million and a half dollar outdoor Starlight Theatre in Swope Park on June 25. The enclosed folder gives you the details as to the proposed season of light opera and further details as to the theatre itself.

We would very much like to have you and Mrs. Brinkerhoff with us on June 25. The opening performance will be "Desert Song" and Sigmund Romberg, the composer, will be present. Quite an elaborate program has been arranged for both afternoon and evening of that day.

There will be a reception at the River Club at 2 o'clock, a buffet at the Hillcrest Country Club, which is close to Swope Park, at 5 o'clock and then the big gala opening. There will be an after-the-show affair at the Saddle and Sirloin Club for those who can stay over.

We would very much appreciate it if you would advise us as to whether or not you can accept this invitation so that proper preparations can be made and tickets reserved. You can understand there will be quite a big crowd and an early reply would be helpful.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

*Ray A. Roberts*

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



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 29, 1951

Roy A. Roberts  
Kansas City Star  
Kansas City 17, Mo.

Dear Roy:

Thanks for the invitation to your big theatre party. Both Pearl and I had a fine time and we were delighted to have the opportunity to see the project at its opening. I have expressed myself on the matter editorially, dealing with it as a big community project and as another demonstration of Kansas City's modern spirit and modern leadership.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C O P Y

WASHINGTON CALLING

Marquis Childs  
1422 F Street, N.W.  
Room 201

Washington, D. C.

July 5, 1951

Mr. Clyde M. Reed, Jr.  
THE PARSONS SUN  
Parsons, Kansas

Dear Mr. Reed:-

It may interest you to know that when I did the column in question I felt certain that an editorial just like yours would be written. You ignored the fact that I said that rule by bureaucratic decree has been "a trend of the past twenty years or more, although there would be a many-sided dispute over the reasons for this trend." I would like to argue that out with you if we could sit down quietly over a long drink.

Now there may be no difference in your mind between the kind of bureaucratic decrees that had to do with a corn and hog program and the kind of bureaucratic decrees that have to do with the rights and freedoms of human beings. But in my mind there is a profound difference. You may say, of course, that once you have opened the way to one, then it is open to the other. I would agree with you here in part on this point but not entirely. Moreover, I do feel most strongly the differentiation suggested above.

Let me say in closing that you may be inclined to put labels on people and therefore dispense with thinking about them. You tag me as a "New Dealer" or a "Fair Dealer" which is not altogether accurate. Any way I was interested to see your editorial.

Sincerely,

Marquis Childs  
(signed)

MC/mr



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Parsons, Kansas, July 11, 1951.

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff,  
Editor Headlight,  
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:--

I saw in the Topeka Capital, a few days ago, an article reprinted from the Headlight, in which you mentioned the career, in Congress, of Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, and asked to be corrected, if need be. While I have no desire to do any correcting, I have looked up some data concerning him and others who have had long periods of service, in Congress. In doing so I have some records that may be interesting to you.

I find, for one thing, that in all the sketches of McKellar, in the Congressional Directory, furnished by him, he does not give his age, but in "Who's Who?" his birth is given as Jan. 20, 1869. He entered Congress as a District Representative, Nov. 9, 1911, to fill the unexpired term of a man who had died. He was then elected to the two following terms, which period ended March 4, 1917. He then took his seat as U. S. Senator, for the term beginning same date, and reelected in 1922, 1928, 1934 1940, 1948, with present term due to expire in 1953. If elected in 1952, his term will expire Jan 3d, 1959, making him just past 90 years old, with a service of a little more than 41 years, in both houses, but it is quite possible that he may not be elected, in 1952, and he may not live until the later date. In looking up some other records I find the career of former U. S. Senator Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, very interesting. He was born April 14, 1810. Elected as a district representative in 1854 and served as such from March 4, 1855 to March 3, 1867. Then served as U. S. Senator from March 4, 1867 until his death, December 28, 1898, with an aggregate of nearly 44 yrs. The present member of Congress who has served longer than any other person is Representative A. J. Sabath, who began March 4th, 1907, from a Chicago district, 23 terms consecutively.

In the old days the "Father of the House" as he was called was Henry H. Bingham, of Pennsylvania from a Philadelphia District. I do not know just how many terms he served but his service began March 4, 1879. I may be able to ascertain how long he served and if so, will advise you if you care for the information.

One feature about McKellar that may be interesting is the length of his own write-ups in the different issues of the Directory. In the issue of 1915, as a district representative it occupied a space of one inch in length, by a width of 5 inches. In the issue of February, 1945, as a Senator it occupies space of 3 inches long, 5 in width. In the current issue of Jan. 3, 1951, it occupies space of 8 inches in length, by 5 in width. So far as I know it is by far the longest write-up of all in the Directory. You know they are allowed as much space as they wish and much fun has been made of the extra long ones. Some are the other extreme as is the one about Dewey Short, of Galena, Mo. It merely says: DEWEY SHORT, Republican, Galena, Mo.

Aside from this, Mr. Brinkerhoff, I have wanted to have that talk with you at your office, some time, when mutually convenient, that I suggested some time ago.

I have, in mind, the need of a new approach to state matters, and I believe you are the logical person to take some kind of a lead in the movement. We have had a stagnation of state matters for several years, due, as I think, to the type of governors we have had, who have ignored proper service to the state in their visions of self advancement and the necessity, as it seemed to them, to avoid taking any real stand on state issues, for fear of losing out in their plans for getting votes for selfish reasons. I was forced to come to this conclusion when I was interested in rural school reorganization and rural school welfare. In the campaign of '46 I thought Carlson was sincere in his advocacy of school reorganization



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

TO MR. BRINKERHOFF-From C.E.Rench-7/11/51-Page 2

When I heard him talk about his experience as a schoolboy in rural Cloud County, and as a board member and his determination to see that the reorganization laws were made adequate to rural needs. But in the session of the Legislature I saw how he sidestepped all places where he could have done a job of administration and directing legislation and devoted his time to running every where he could kiss babies, dedicate flag poles and henhouses and dish out beans at Legion meetings in his effort to round up votes for his candidacy for the U.S. Senate. In the meantime there were unlimited opportunities for constructive work for any person who had ability and integrity and some measure of unselfishness. I also found that his predecessor, Schoepfel had been the same kind of a governor and it is apparent that Arn is much the same.

We need a governor who is willing to work on the job without any thought of higher office. I think the governor should either hold the job for two terms of two years, each, or, preferably, have a one-term of four years, and be ineligible for re-election, as is the case, in Missouri. He should have the power of appointing all of the minor state offices, such as a President appoints his cabinet, and be big enough to do that duty, and thereby give us the short ballot, and relieve the voter of having to select among a bunch of unknown candidates. And I would prevent the governor having the power of filling senatorial vacancies by appointment and thus virtually making himself as Carlson did when he appointed Darby, with the understanding that Darby would step aside for Carlson. All this requires some constructive legislation and some constitutional changes but in time it could be done. This would increase the power and duties of the governor in some ways and decrease it in others, all to the state welfare. It is my notion that we should make it possible to get our new members of the U. S. Senate from experienced district congressmen, such as Ed Rees, of Emporia; Cole, of Holton; and Wint Smith, of Mankato, for instance, these three being my favorites, for promotion. This could be accomplished, in a way, by having a senatorial primary, early in the years when senators are to be elected, and presidential primary when presidential elections are due, and have them coincide when both are due. There are good reasons for this plan that could be explained, when necessary. And when vacancies occur, as was the case when Clyde Reed died have special election and dehorn the governor from hogging the job for himself as Carlson really did. And have the courts and schools taken entirely out of politics in some way to prevent political manipulations.

All this and much more can be initiated by a real governor such as I think you could be, and such a governor should be satisfied to do a good job while in office and then feel he had done his part to make Kansas a better place to live.

And above everything else have state matters entirely segregated from national party politics, as soon as it can be done by legislation, or constitutional procedure. What we need is "Honesty, Efficiency, and Economy" in state, county and city government, and neither political, party has a monopoly of these qualifications. There never was a better time to start some of this than right now, and I am pleased to see that Fred, Hall, Lieut. Governor has started something along that line, and I am hoping he can keep it up and continue on that job, for at least two more terms with some outstanding newspaper man such as you, being governor for the two terms beginning January, 1953, then, possibly giving Hall a turn at it, and eliminate, entirely such unprogressives as Arn has shown himself to be. All this is visionary, I know, but I have some plans for publicity along the lines I have written up on occasion, and I would like to talk it over with you, for your approval or rejection. I am now past 80 years of age and desire nothing for myself other than a chance to do some publicity that I think worth while or the chance to get real systematic and comprehensive rural school reorganization. My time on earth is necessarily limited and may cease any time as did that of my good wife a few months ago, but I feel as enthusiastic for constructive planning as if I expected to live many years.

Would be glad to have a talk with you at your earliest convenience. Enclosed are some recent clippings. I think "Dutch Shultz" is somewhat off. C.E.Rench, 2511 Broadway, Yours,  
Parsons, Kansas.

*C.E. Rench,*



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

July 14, 1951

C. E. Rensch  
2511 Broadway  
Parsons, Kas.

Dear Mr. Rensch:

I think you misread the piece in the Capital. I made the statement that if McKellar were reelected and served out his term, he would be at the end of his term older than any other member of Congress had been while serving. I think that statement will stand.

I approve a great deal of your ideas concerning the situation in Kansas. How the people can be brought around in sufficient numbers to take the same views is beyond my power to estimate. But I hope it can be done.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EMPORIA, KANSAS

October 15, 1951

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

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

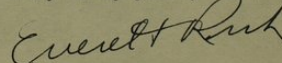
Our new William Allen White Memorial Library is almost finished and we are now planning its dedication. The building is costing around a million and those of us here on the campus think it a handsome and appropriate memorial to Mr. White.

At the dedication we will have around a hundred letters from persons who knew Mr. White. These letters will become a part of the permanent William Allen White collection.

Since you were a life-long friend of Mr. White, I am asking you to write a letter, anywhere from part of a page to two pages. Write something of human interest if you wish, but above all give some incident which impressed itself on your mind and which reveals his character or personality.

I don't suppose I have to tell you that what you write will be of singular value in the years to come.

Very truly yours,



Everett Rich  
Head of Department of English



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 7, 1951

Roy A. Roberts  
President  
Kansas City Star  
Kansas City 17, Mo.

Dear Roy:

A disturbing thing to me about the general is that, as Oscar said, his brother Milton is his No. 1 advisor and Brother Milton lived with and on the new deal in Washington for several years. Every time I have heard him say anything it was new dealish.

On my desk this morning was a little note written on a statement which had gone out for advertising to a man down at Baxter Springs. The note he hand wrote on this statement was:

A fellow told me this morning he knew what Eisenhower was going to do. So I said: "Let me in on the secret." He said: "He will do just what Uncle Harry told him to do." You might tell the boss.

I thought this was interesting to you because it indicates how some of the folks down at the grassroots are talking.

Fine time again Monday.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Oct. 30, 1951

Iverett Rich  
English Department  
Kansas State Teachers College  
Emporia, Kas.

Dear Mr. Rich:

Returning from a trip to Washington I found your letter of Oct. 15. I will be very glad to write a letter concerning Mr. White. I have the incident in mind which I want to write about. I assume you want to file these letters in the original. Please tell me how you want the letter addressed. My idea is that the letter should be addressed to you.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EMPORIA, KANSAS

November 7, 1951

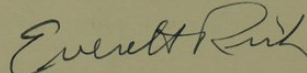
Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff  
The Pittsburg Publishing Company  
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Some of the letters are addressed to the William Allen White Library, but most of them are addressed to me. It really is not important to whom the letters are addressed.

The letters that I have received have been so varied and so much richer in content than anything I expected, I hope to publish them in part perhaps in the Kansas City Star. Whatever money I receive from publication will go into a fund to buy books for the Library, a scholarship fund or something of the sort. I hope I may have your permission to publish your letter in full or in part.

Sincerely yours,



Everett Rich, Head  
Department of English

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## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 13, 1951

Everett Rich  
Kansas State Teachers College  
Emporia, Kas.

Dear Mr. Rich:

Over a period of 40 years it was my great privilege to have many conversations with William Allen White on all kinds of topics, to meet him in political and professional meetings in which we participated, to see him in action on platforms, either as a formal speaker or as a political campaigner, and to visit with him in Emporia, Topeka and in other cities, some of them far distant.

In my experience with Mr. White the most unforgettable incident occurred on a balmy May night in 1936. He was the commencement speaker at the College here in Pittsburg. As on other occasions he was our guest. He came to Pittsburg the day before commencement. After dinner we went out to a side porch for what turned out to be a delightful, and prolonged, conversational session. We had invited a couple, former Emporians, over to visit with Mr. White. The evening was devoted to Emporia and Emporia folks. Mr. White was a great conversationalist. He had no superior as a reporter delivering his story orally. The principal topic was made to order. It was Emporia. From 7 o'clock until midnight we sat out and heard a continuous tale of Mr. White's experiences in Emporia. There was the Cross incident and the part that, as a young editor in Emporia, Mr. White played in that tragic affair. There was his portrait of Major Calvin Hood. Half a hundred--maybe more--figures of Emporia came under review. Our former Emporians could no more than suggest some new item or some new town character for treatment by Mr. White. The episodes that passed in review began when Mr. White took over the Gazette. The incidents involved every sort of activity in Emporia. How he had retained in his memory all the information he had was scarcely less marvelous than his superb ability to relate with characteristic fluency the things of human interest that he recalled. I believe he had forgotten nothing.



## Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Everett Rich--2--Nov. 13, 1951

On the morrow he was to deliver a commencement address. But there was no thought of that. He was a man of large affairs, with heavy literary responsibilities resting on him. He was taking a part in the political campaign developing. He was a national figure not only in literature and journalism but in American politics. That such a man not only could but would devote an evening, a long evening, to the recitation of life in a small city was not an ordinary thing. But William Allen White was an extraordinary man. The spontaneity of his humor matched the thoroughness of his reporting. He knew his men and women of Emporia as few of them could have thought he knew them. Their weaknesses, their strong points, their little frauds and their big dishonesties, their hypocrisies and their sincerities--all these and more Mr. White knew about his Emporians. There was no malice anywhere. There was no deviltry. There was just an intense interest and delight in the knowledge he possessed and he found great fun in revealing it.

It happened that at that time both of us had been elected delegates to the Republican national convention to be held in Cleveland in a few weeks with a Kansan, Gov. Landon, as the leading candidate for the nomination for President. It was not until he had gone, the next afternoon, that it occurred to me that the subject of the forthcoming national convention had never been mentioned by either of us during his stay. But why should we have talked politics when his Emporia was available for discussion?

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls