

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 86, Pages 2551 - 2580

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 Schoeppel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

They sabotaged my program, and they scuttled all my aims;
They seduced the Legislature into footsy-footsy games.
Then when the Eisenhower boom emerged from out the fog,
Frank and Harry left me sitting like a bump upon a log.

You'd think they'd never heard that I was Kansas's Governor.
They dealt not only me out, but our senior Senator.
And later, when I tried to purge that little stinker, Hall
I found them too damned occupied to help me out at all.

My purge attempt went sour - Result: I bit the dirt
While making quite a hero of that damned Dodge City squirt.
So when our Legislature convened again this year,
I found my friends had lost their nerve, my foes had lost their fear.

Bill Smith, Fred Hall and Landon, what with Anderson and Blake
There were Weigand, Woelk, McNair and Blythe, all came to join my wake.
If it hadn't been that Woodward and some like guys joined the fray,
They'd have cut me down like Caesar for a Roman holiday.

Then they turned on Wesley Roberts, he had always been my friend,
And they were jealous of his job and his successful end,
With Smith, McCoy and good old Alf all howling with the pack,
They ran poor Wesley to the ground and bit him in the back.

With a cooked-up, rigged committee of some legislative jerks,
They plastered him with mud and mire, they gave poor Wes the works.
They couldn't prove him guilty, he had only made some dough,
So they spread on more manure, but they had to let him go.

Then up ran Fearless Fatzer, just to be in on the kill,
Like any other scavenger or slinking jackal will.
When this assassinating gang had finished with their spree,
Their own - The Grand Old Party was the only casualty.

Ah well - 'tis nearly finished, only two more years to hack,
And when this term is over, they can stick it in their stack.
I don't want no appointment, on that promise you can bet.
All I want is peace and quiet, just to fiddle and forget.

There's no easy way to do it - I'll go back to Wichita
And start again all over in the practice of the law.
They've raped, run over, ravished me, but hear my parting knell -
Before I'd take this job again, I'd see them all in Hell.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

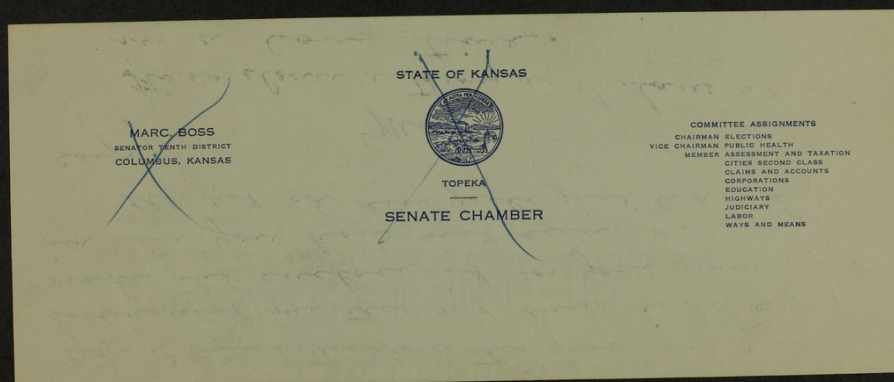
Fred - I missed this show this year, but Dick Robbins sent me this & I have had a copy made and enclose it for your amusement in case you have not seen it.

I'll bet Ed Am feels just like this says.

Yours

It's as clever a thing as I have seen in a long time.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Northwest Missouri State College

"And the Truth shall make you free."

DEAN OF THE FACULTY

MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

May 15, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I dropped in on Mr. Stauffer last Saturday morning and had a little visit with him. He spoke of your high regard for me, and I understood him to say that he was supporting me for the position. McCoy seems to be taking the lead in matters, however, and he favors another man from out of the state.

There was an unfortunate mixup in my meeting with McCoy in January. He told me to meet him in the Jayhawk Hotel, then mistakenly remembered it as the Board of Regents Office in the capitol. Dressed me down pretty severely about being late for the appointment. I didn't attempt to set him straight. It was rather embarrassing there in the presence of Walter Fees, Hubert Brighton and others.

Stopped in on Drew McLaughlin on my way down to Pittsburg and had quite a lengthy visit with him. He said he had not kept in touch with developments but felt that the Board might do something on the appointment at its next meeting, May 22.

Sorry I did not arrive in Pittsburg during the day as I would like to have visited with you. Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,



W. A. Brandenburg

A letter just received from Mr. Stauffer says the matter has been settled, and concludes: "I am extremely sorry the board didn't give you the consideration to which you are entitled." Again, many thanks, Mr. Brinkerhoff. Perhaps there will be another opportunity later.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 19, 1953

W. A. Brandenburg
Dean of the Faculty
Northwest Missouri State College
Maryville, Mo.

Dear Bill:

I was with Mr. Stauffer in Lawrence Saturday. But we did not mention the Emporia thing. He had told me in Kansas City ten days before that the committee had gone up to Minnesota to interview somebody.

I was sorry when I saw the part that McCoy was playing. McCoy never was a friend of your fathers. I had a set to with him which ended in a distinct victory for me over the Mendenhall thing. But I do not think he ever forgave your father. Consequently, I was interested in the incident you related. Had I been you I would not have hesitated to put the blame where it belonged.

I shall be awfully sorry if the matter is settled against us. But it may turn out for the best. The Emporia school is by no means on the upgrade. Perhaps it might be made so. But it encounters the stiffest kind of competition in Pittsburg. I understand that in another year or two the retirement rule will cause a change at Pittsburg.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Northwest Missouri State College

"And the Truth shall make you free."

DEAN OF THE FACULTY

MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

May 21, 1953

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

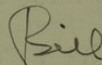
Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Your letter of May 19, 1953 explains a lot. I had been completely baffled by the reception Mr. McCoy gave me-- hostility from the outset. The first words he spoke were shouted at me. I had in mind asking you if there were a prior family antagonism.

Mr. Fees and Mr. Hershberger had been very pleasant when I talked with them earlier, in individual conferences. I believe they were favorably disposed. It would be easy to misinterpret politeness and attentiveness for support but I do believe they were favorable. Neither had any reason to support me in a scrap, however, and I predicted after the Topeka conference with McCoy that he would overwhelm them. I really felt that with the violence of his opposition I was through. As we parted he told me "how very much he had thought of my father. It didn't sound right.

As I told you in the first letter, confidentially, I would have preferred that the institution in question be Pittsburg. Had this been the case, the outcome would have been far more disappointing to me. As you suggest, this may all be for the best.

Sincerely,



W. A. Brandenburg

Last week I turned down a position paying more than Scotty MacFarlane drew at Emporia, the deanship of faculty at Coe College. Rather hard to do but I believe it would have contributed nothing to my future chances in Kansas.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 28-1953

Dear Marc:

Upon the recommendation of the County Chairman, the National Committeewoman for Kansas, and many other interested people I have recommended Fred Winters to be the Acting Postmaster at Columbus. As you know, these appointments require Senate confirmation and I am sure you know what the score on that will be insofar as Kansas is concerned.

I realize that every postmaster appointment that is made in the Third District will not be beneficial to the Congressman making such recommendations. There is bound to be more disappointments than there are happy people.

It is my intention to proceed just as expeditiously as possible in filling these vacancies in the Third District. I will expect the appointees to be capable of doing a good job in serving the patrons of these offices. I will expect them to secure the proper endorsements and, of course, they must be high enough on the Civil Service eligible list to comply with civil service requirements. There will be 17 or 18 vacancies to fill in the Third District in the next few months and I expect to follow this regular procedure in all of them. I am sure that were you in my place you would do the same.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Myron V. George.

Copy of letter I received from Myron V. George. Apparently Winter, as Co. Chairman, must have "recommended" himself - for I doubt that Millard Knack has been in office long enough to do so. So you see who is running things here !!

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 4, 1953

Mrs. Ida Brooks
305 North Williams St.
Farmer City, Ill.

Dear Cousin Ida:

A few days ago I was wondering whether you had obtained the information you were seeking. I will make an effort to get some information from Paul Angel at the first opportunity. It seems possible that sometime in the fall Pearl and I may be dropping through Illinois for a day or so to see you and the others.* This cannot be made definite because various other things are up which might interfere. But we hope that it will be possible to make a drive back that way when autumn arrives. Since this is a non-political year, it may be possible to get away.

It seems to me that every person who favored Taft last year must be proud of the manner in which he has proceeded with the leadership of his party in Congress. The recent hullabaloo about the Taft speech in Cincinnati and the Eisenhower comment on it is much noisier than it is important. There are many who would like to produce a division between the two. But Eisenhower certainly recognizes the fact that he cannot fight his own party leader in Congress and Taft certainly realizes that he can go no place fighting the President. Taft, however, does not need to recognize that fact because he has no intention of opposing the administration, as such. Certainly he has not only a right but a duty to follow his own conscience and his own intellect in policies which his party must determine.

We were glad to hear news of members of the family. I get lonesome as the years go along for information concerning my family on both sides, my mother's family and my father's. There is no one left in my family out here with whom I can talk about the family. There is one cousin living near Chanute and another living farther west in Kansas, sons of Uncle Bob. I have seen the one at Chanute occasionally who is, of course, a first cousin of yours and of mine. But he is not at all

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mrs. Ida Brooks--2--June 4, 1953

familiar with the family. His folks were far a way from Illinois when he was growing up and he never did obtain much information.

Anyway, we hope to be able to visit with you sometime later this year.

Give our regards to all our relatives, and with kindest regards to you from us both,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

June 11, 1953

Hon. Joseph McCarthy
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Senator McCarthy:

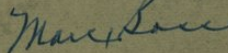
I enclose a clipping of an editorial by Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff, editor of the Pittsburg Headlight, of Pittsburg, Kansas, entitled "Silent on Hiss".

Although I am not a constituent, I have long been one of your most sincere admirers and defenders; and I thank God that our Government has you as a part of it.

I wish that we had more newspaper men like Fred Brinkerhoff, and more radio reporters like Fulton Lewis, Jr., who have the patriotism and honor to report truthfully on your activities.

I also wish that we had a president with the wisdom to appreciate the wonderful work you are doing for our country, and the courage to come out and say so without equivocation.

Most Sincerely yours,


Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Mulberry, Kansas
June 17, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

I have not talked to you since last January, but I am still very much interested in receiving the appointment as Postmaster of Mulberry.

We had to make out new application forms, the closing date to be June 30. I heard last night that there is to be an acting postmaster appointed. However, this may be just a rumor.

My qualifications are the highest of any applicant, and I have voted a straight Republican State and National ticket since 1928 when I voted for Herbert Hoover. Not many in town have that record.

I am counting on you, Mr. Brinkerhoff, to help me, and I can assure you that I will be worthy of your kindness to me. Even people who do not want me to have the appointment can not question my qualifications and character.

My father, were he living, would be most grateful to you for your kindness to me. If you want to talk to me again, I will be glad to come over.

Sincerely,

Alberta M. Bertino

Alberta M. Bertino

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Northwest Missouri State College

"And the Truth shall make you free."

DEAN OF THE FACULTY

MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

June 18, 1953

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

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Through Marion Stauffer I learn that the Board plans of several weeks ago on the Emporia position have miscarried. I know nothing of the details and present thinking but thought you might be interested in knowing this.

Sincerely,

Bill

W. A. Brandenburg

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

June 20, 1953

Miss Alberta M. Bertino
Box 501
Mulberry, Kas.

Dear Miss Bertino:

I have heard very little about the Mulberry situation. Somebody told me a while back of one or two other candidates. But I do not recall seeing the announcement of the examination. There is supposed to be an examination for Pittsburg in progress with Hepler and Girard coming up.

After the examination, then I am sure that the congressman will insist on talking to committee members from Mulberry and Mulberry territory. I would think that you should pay strict attention to that matter and obtain all the support you can from the precinct committeemen and women.

Under the current circumstances, such endorsements will be more effective than anything others can do. So you can see why I am trying to impress you with the wisdom of obtaining the support of committee members. It is not always the case that members of the committee are either representative Republicans or real Republicans. But this is the rule that is being followed now.

I had hoped to see Mr. Kurtz before now but have not been able to do so. I will be glad to talk to you if you happen to be in Pittsburg someday.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

July 11, 1953

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

Dear Fred:

I received the letter you sent me from the editor of the Emporia Gazette together with copy of William Allen White's editorial about Vallembois. I am sure I never saw that editorial; and I am equally sure that Mr. White wrote another editorial around the lines I mentioned to you over the telephone. As I recall the other editorial was on an all together different subject and just mentioned the Vallembois case in passing, as an example of the fact that anyone could be mistaken in his judgment of men.

Since I brought this up, as you know the situation has be^{en} partly clarified by the announcement that Lee Kemper of Garden City was slated for the appointment as Marshal; but of course the Marshal has several deputies and there is still a danger there.

I don't know what to do about the Emporia editorial, as I realize that you cannot very well ask the Gazette man to look it up again; but on the other hand, I know darned well that there was an editorial such as I mentioned to you and that I did not simply dream the whole thing up.

Sincerely,


Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

July 18, 1953

Dear Dick:

I feel rather ashamed for not writing you sooner, or at least sending you some of my "outbursts" on current happenings, for I know that the last few weeks have been pretty rough for you, and I know that some slight diversion might have helped to take your mind off your troubles for a while. I imagine that unless one could actually have been down there during the drought, it would be difficult to realize just how terrible it has been; but if the newspapers accounts are accurate, you should have obtained some relief by now. Anyway, I sincerely hope so.

As to my usual outbursts, and my neglect in writing you, the mill has been singularly silent for the last couple of weeks, not because of any lack of materials for grist, but because I have been too accupied with other matters. At long last I have found a suitable location for my law office and I plan to move into it before August 1; and I have been well occupied in making plans for remodeling and decorating, as well as trying to get partly caught up with my routine work before I move (work that I have let slide during the past weeks because of the extreme heat).

Anyway, Dick, in a couple of weeks or so I will be ensconced in my new office and will resume my customary pastime of writing letters to the editor (Fred Brinkerhoff) or to the Congressmen and Senators, copies of all of which will be duly sent to Mr. Robbins.

As time goes on I find myself getting more and more disgusted with the new administration. Of course I was opposed to Eisenhower for the nomination, but after he got it I tried to be a good sport and I went all out for him and since he has been in office I have tried to go along; but as time passes I find myself more and more leaning to the feeling that so far there isn't ten cents difference between what we did have and what we now have. That last incident about J. B. Matthews who was appointed as Chief Counsel for the McCarthy Sub-Committee has just about finished me. Apparently Ike is so avid for a chance to slap at McCarthy that he will stoop to anything, even deliberate deception and misrepresentation, in order to do so. Apparently Ike does not want communists exposed in this country; all Matthews said was that less than three per cent of the Protestant clergy were supporting the communist line, either knowingly or as "unwitting dupes," and he further said that the vast majority of the clergy were loyal men who were embarrassed by the actions of this small minority. Yet Eisenhower terms this a "generalized and sweeping" attack on "the whole of" this group of citizens, a condemnation of "such a vast portion of the churches or the clergy as to create doubt in the loyalty of all."

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Incidentally, Fred Brinkerhoff has been running a most interesting and effective series of articles on "book burning" and I wish you could have read them for they are really good. That is another place where Eisenhower got completely out of line, in fact he misrepresented the whole issue.

When Eisenhower first blasted at Taft on the "go it alone" speech, without first taking the trouble to see what Taft had actually said, I put it down to political ineptitude, and was willing to look over it as such; but when he followed this up with more of the same thing (like book burning and the Matthews incident) I feel that I am justified in discarding the theory of political inexperience, and in suspecting outright mendacity.

Hope this letter finds you well and on the road to a solution of your livestock difficulties.

Sincerely yours,

Marc
Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

August 4, 1953

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

Dear Fred:

I got a big kick out of reading my "letter to the editor" which you printed in the Headlight last week. I have only two complaints to make about it. First, either your linotypist or my secretary misspelled a couple of words; and, second, you left out (due to your innate modesty, I presume) the very important paragraph in which I deplored the fact that the personnel of the Press Association were not composed of men of your caliber. Anyway, I enjoyed it hugely.

Incidentally, on this same subject I ran unto another very interesting example the other day in an Associated Press story about the hectic battle that was had when the Rev. Jack McMichael testified before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee. As you know, the larger newspapers always receive a full story from the A. P., but the smaller papers (like The Columbus Advocate) get an abridged version. I compared the story in the Kansas City Times with the same story in The Columbus Advocate, and the difference was quite startling. The Advocate version had in everything the witnesses said which would tend to discredit the Committee and its investigation; but one significant paragraph that was in the Kansas City Star story was completely omitted from the Advocate's version--the paragraph which told about the twenty-eight communist-front organizations which McMichael had sponsored or had spoken at; together with the fact that McMichael admitted having sponsored some of them and said he "could not remember about many of the others".

Isn't it rather strange that in preparing the abridged story for the smaller papers, the editorial staff of the A. P. "just happened" to omit this significant paragraph?

By the way, Fred, I heard a radio broadcast Sunday at noon over the Mutual Network by Bill Cunningham of the Boston Herald. He spent half of the time eulogising Senator Taft, and the rest of his time telling what he thought of the low-down skunks who thirteen months ago were calling Taft a thief, and how now are shedding buckets of crocodile tears because of his demise.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

I have written in for a transcript of this broadcast, and if I succeed in getting it I will have some copies made and will send you one. I know you will enjoy it because it really hits several nails squarely on their respective heads. Robert Taft's death was certainly a terrible blow to me; and it did not make me feel one whit better to have to hear some political popinjay like Governor Dewey sounding off about it.

Yours very truly,

Marc

Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Aug. 14, 1953

Senator Harry F. Byrd, jr.
Winchester, Va.

Dear Harry:

You are getting a lot of publicity out this way on your tax law. I do not know whether you saw the Chicago Tribune editorial or not but I am enclosing it. Last night the Kansas City Star carried a similar tribute. Also is enclosed a tearout from the Coffeyville Journal showing a reprint of an editorial in the St. Joseph Gazette. And I am enclosing a small effort on my part to discuss the interesting topic.

We have had a terrible summer out here. There has been practically no rain for three months after the early spring had been nicely wet. Crops are badly damaged and much of the country looks like October rather than August. I trust the Valley has not suffered from any drought.

I have called a meeting of the nominating committee for Nov. 12 in New York. This is earlier than ever before in my experience or recollection but everybody seems to favor it.

Regards from the Brinkerhoffs to the Byrds.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS
August 17, 1953

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

Dear Fred:

Sometime ago I wrote you that I had written to Bill Cunningham of the Boston Herald for a copy of his broadcast made on Sunday, August 2, 1953, which was the day before Taft's state funeral.

I received a copy of the broadcast this morning, together with a very cordial note from Mr. Cunningham giving me "permission for the reprinting of it." Pursuant to this permission, I have run off several copies of it and I enclose one for your reading and enjoyment.

It seems rather long, but remember that this was a fifteen minute broadcast and there are parts of it which have no bearing on Taft. Incidentally, I have made a few corrections of typographical errors and misspelled words (such as "their" instead of "there"); but I have not altered the sentence structure even though I am sure Mr. Hoenshell and Messrs. Scott-Southworth would probably turn over in their graves at the prospect of trying to diagram some of them (this is quite surprising, for it all seemed very beautiful the way he said it). Anyway I do think you will enjoy reading what he said about Taft and his erstwhile detractors.

Sincerely yours,

Marc
Marc. Boss

MB/as
Enc.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The following is a reprint of the script of the broadcast by Bill Cunningham, Mutual Commentator, made on Sunday, August 2, 1953; and this reprint has been made with Mr. Cunningham's written permission. In reading this, it should be kept in mind that this broadcast was made two days after the death of Senator Taft and the day before his official state funeral--Marc. Boss.

CUNNINGHAM: "I'll return after a message of interest..."

ANNOUNCER: "Now here is..Bill Cunningham."

We are obviously going to keep strong forces in Korea both to watch the Reds and to take stern measures if the South Koreans try to go it on their own. There is no thinking as yet that we will restart the war no matter what happens. Britain is very interested in all this and will push hard for a strong role in the coming talks.

The Prisoner of War Exchange is proceeding, General Dean our ranking prisoner that they still hold will be processed just like the rest, that means he'll have no special handling.

In Washington and all over this country the scene is still saddened over the death of Senator Taft, his funeral of State will be held there tomorrow and every wheel there has stopped in the meanwhile. Washington is a very sobered place at the moment, the body of Senator Taft is lying in state, the flags are at half-mast, that includes the flag on the White House which the late Senator was never privileged to occupy, but in which his constructive influence has been enormous during these past six months where it will be missed in ways that may have much to do with future history. President Eisenhower looks tired and drawn. Photographs of him yesterday did not show the famous smile. The loss of "Mr. Republican" is going to be very sorely felt in the White House. In fact it was felt there yesterday, when the Senate Finance Committee gave the President his first hard defeat. That was the refusal to raise the National Debt limit that action has some look of the notice of a revolt now that the strong hand of the majority leader is still. That was the sort of Legislation difficult but necessary that he had helped and steered and seen

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

fast to the credit of President Eisenhower and his administration. If Taft had remained "Mr. Republican" he would also have become a "Mr. Team" which may or may not be significant, that every Eisenhower proposal passed Congress as long as the Senator lived but the first big Eisenhower set-back came as soon as the Senator died. The tributes and the eulogies continue to pour in from all over the world, some of them even some of the eulogistic editorials in our American newspapers today are obvious attempts to cover-up things said in the past. Few really good men have been more savagely abused and deliberately misrepresented than the one who lies dead now. It may be possible that no one now living will ever actually know the true story or have the real picture of what Senator Taft really was or meant. So much mud and muck was flung at him during the four times he was a Presidential nominee of the Republican party, and by the opponents of the stands he took on great and controversial issues during the tempestuous decade and a half immediately behind us. As I said, so much mud and muck was flung at Taft the candidate, that the figure of Taft the Statesman standing immediately behind was never really seen in all its outline. It's a sad sight now to have to look at and listen to some of those who fought him hardest and dirtiest for their own ambitious reasons. Taft himself conditioned to the hard and even the unfair fighting of politics confided to his friends, and I was one of them, that the thing that really hurt, the thing that hurt in his case was the viciousness, the seeming actual personal hatred of the men who were trying to block his path to the Presidency and who did block it. I for one can still hear those cries of "thief" at the Chicago Convention last summer. That was in the battle over those contested Southern delegates, those trying to stop Taft said he was trying to steal those delegations, he was therefore a thief both morally and intellectually dishonest and therefore unworthy to be trusted with the affairs of the government. One can't help but wonder what that unhallowed breed thinks now as it sees that flag at half mast on the White House, knowing as they do that there's far more to that vision than just ceremony and respect, there's actually death in the White House and they know it.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

They speak now of his unswerving integrity, his great intellectual honesty of how whether you agreed with him or didn't you never found him twisted you always knew where to find him, where he stood, where he continued to stand. That isn't what they said back there. Now only the last time but in those other times as well, they are talking now about his fine mind, but it doesn't take much memory to recall what they were saying about his mind then. One of those famous cracks was "Senator Taft has the finest mind in the Senate until he makes it up" another was "Senator Taft has the finest mind of the 18th century" the question therefore is, when were they lying, then or now. The whole world instinctively hates a liar and a hypocrite and I'll bring this matter up here only as a warning to all who demand honor, integrity and truth, most of the hypocrites who helped defeat and possibly kill not only a decent man but a great one are still around, they are still ambitious, they are still scheming, neither their crocodile tears nor their eulogies can wash the dirt out of their black political souls. They are not to be trusted, watch for them and wait for them, they'll be out there again, posing as honorable men dedicated political Messiahs, but they've served their purpose, their personal purpose that means, at what cost to the nation and the world can now only be surmised. There were of course many honest critics of Senator Taft and his policies and what I've just said does not include them. They did not agree with the Senator's foreign policies and in paying him tribute now they frankly recall that fact. It may be interesting now to recall now Senator Taft himself personally defined his Foreign policy and I read that to you now directly from the notes I made as I heard him say these words in person: "the principal purpose of the Foreign policy of the United States" he said in that flat voice of his "is to maintain the liberty of our people, the purpose is not to reform the entire world or spread sweetness and light or economic prosperity to people who have lived and worked out their own salvation for centuries according to the best of their abilities". Now if you didn't agree with that at least that's where you stood and despite the billions we've spent and all the gestures we've made, the

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melancholy part of it is the peoples of those countries he was talking about now seem to have agreed with him, not with us. But now I'll have more news and comments for you in just half a minute.

The business of government of course must go on and will go on, it was Taft himself who said no man is indispensable. The funeral of state will be held in the Capital Rotunda tomorrow with President Eisenhower and other highest ranking personages present. This is only the thirteenth time this honor has been accorded any American. Then the body will be taken to Cincinnati for interment. Already in Washington and elsewhere however, the matter of reorganization and realignment are being quietly discussed. It seems to be taken for granted that Senator Knowland will continue as the Senate Majority Leader if the Republicans maintain the majority. There may be some opposition to this because Senator Taft in a typical gesture hand picked Knowland himself instead of making the selection a matter of general discussion and general agreement but it is believed that Senator Knowland will continue in that post and the wondering then switches as to what the state of Ohio will do in the matter of sending on a successor to the Statesman it has lost. If Ohio follows usual procedure Ohio's Governor Lauche will appoint a successor to serve the unexpired portion of Senator Taft's term...and since Governor Lauche is a Democratic, his successor would normally be a Democratic. That's probably what will happen too. But other sorts of talk are going around, one is that the Republicans in Ohio are trying to get a change in law that would call for an election. Now this would be held before the end of the year if the plan went through and the winner would take his seat when Congress re-convenes in January. Their hope is naturally that the successor would be a Republican. In fact it must be more than a hope, in fact a belief or they wouldn't even be considering the plan. The other rumor however, is that the Democratic leadership in Congress hopes that Governor Lauche will appoint a Republican possibly the late Senator's brother Charles and that it will use

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its influence to have this done. The reasoning behind this is that the Democrats actually want a Republican majority because they want the Republicans to have full responsibility for the troubles they think are bound to hit this administration, and make it tremendously unpopular possibly by next year and certainly by 1956. Former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn is supposed to have advised Senator Linden Johnson not to tamper with the present alignment in the Senate, to leave the Republicans in control and therefore responsible. The general Democrat strategy for the next election is already taking form, the Democrats are toying with a cute strategem that may prove very effective. In effect they are trying to kidnap the President, the message they are putting out, the message that may become a campaign slogan is that "Ike needs more Democrats to help put across his program" this is an effort to separate the personal popularity of the President from what they hope will be the unpopularity of his Party, to keep him clean while dropping all the dirt on the Republican rest. This should be easier than it was because with the firm and guiding hand of Taft removed, the Republicans may now break into cliques and camps in the inevitable struggle for place and position.

In the meanwhile save for the preparations in Korea and the interesting scene in Germany where the Communists have been unquestionably put on the defensive by our free food operation the news of the world seems to be at a temporary standstill Italy still has no government, having just repudiated the one favorable to us. France is still really unorganized. Britain's two sick men, Sir Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden were in conference today possibly over how to get a bigger role in the coming talks in Korea.

And our Secretary of State Dulles is flying to Korea today with quite a large group including Henry Cabot Lodge but without the four Senators he invited to accompany him. They were held in Washington by the inability of the Congress to adjourn until Tuesday.

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Mr. Dulles will first try to handle Sugman Rhee then move towards the truce talks. All in all its a tangled trail to be sure and we've just lost a strong auxiliary leader, who was courageous enough at all times to dare to be unpopular when he thought he was right. But there's work to be donw and small time for grieving, lets count our blessings they are many, keep our hearts high our chins up and remember the words of that motto which says, "Today is that tomorrow you were worrying about and all is well," maybe it isn't too well, but it could be a lot worse. We can still keep trying to make it a lot better. Those of you who admired any part of my friend Senator Taft, I can assure you that that was exactly what he asked us, seeking the leadership of Almighty God to try together to do.

This is Bill Cunningham of the Boston Herald, speaking over the Mutual Broadcasting Sustem and saying..thank you very much.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

MEMBER—ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

Winchester Evening Star

Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Editor

"In The Heart of The Apple Belt"

Winchester, Virginia

August 19, 1953 J

Dear Fred:-

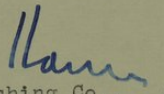
Many thanks for sending me the editorials from The Headlight and from the other papers in your area. It was most thoughtful of you and I greatly appreciate it.

The Valley of Virginia also has been very dry this summer, although our orchards have received more rain than most. We expect our apple crop to be slightly more than last year, but a little less than normal. Price-wise, the situation looks good.

Gretchen joins me in sending you and Pearl our best regards.

Sincerely yours,

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



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

August 20, 1953

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

Dear Fred:

Every time I "unload" a letter to you or Dick Robbins (and I usually send the other one a copy) I think that surely I have it out of my system now and maybe I can quit pestering you. Then something else comes up that makes me so damned mad I have to write one of you again or bust. I suppose it is age creeping up on me.

Anyway, I read the column "News Behind The News" by Ray Tucker in last night's Headlight (August 19) and my reaction is one of despair: What in Hell is the use of me wearing my brain out worrying when it is obvious we are sunk anyway?

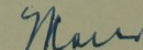
The entire column by Ray Tucker was devoted to the proposition that whereas Congressman Carroll Reese of Tennessee is chairman of a committee to investigate some of these big tax-exempt foundations to see if they have been giving money to communists, pro-communist or communist-front organizations and activities; and the White House is exerting influence to curtail the investigation because most of these tax-exempt foundations supported Eisenhower for the nomination, and if Reese succeeds in bringing anything out, this might react against Eisenhower.

In other words, to hell with our country; let's not permit anything like that if it might hurt the president politically!

What chance does our country have when even the top man is willing to suppress the exposure of possible communist activities for political gain?

Why don't you glance through the article I am referring to and see if it does not leave you, too, slightly nauseated.

Sincerely yours,


Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

August 19, 1953

Dear Dick:

I was thinking about something last night, and I wonder if the same thought has ever occurred to you or to Fred (to whom I am sending a copy of this letter).

As you have probably suspected, for some time I have been rather "hipped" on the theory that the press and radio have for years been conditioning the general public toward an unconscious attitude of softness toward communists and communism. In connection with this, we both know that many critics of our Korean Policy have said that this is the first time our country has fought a war and failed to emerge as winner.

Have you ever wondered why this is?

Bearing in mind what I said at the start has the thought ever occurred to you that this is the first time we have ever fought a war against communists?

Think that one over a little and see if it does not leave you with a sort of frightened feeling.

Suppose that in the very middle of World War II we had entered into a "truce agreement" with Hitler similar to the one we have just concluded.

Sincerely yours,


Marc. Boss

MB/as

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

LAW OFFICES
MARC. BOSS
COLUMBUS, KANSAS

August 25, 1953

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

Dear Fred:

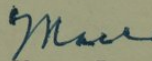
In a news broadcast over the radio this noon, Senator Estes Kefauver was quoted as charging that some members of the Congress are using Congressional Investigating Committees in order to further their own selfish interests.

It will be recalled that about two years ago Senator Kefauver (who until then was practically unknown) attained national prominence because of his activities as chairman of a committee investigating crime.

It will also be remembered that Senator Kefauver tried to "cash in" on this national prominence last year by making a strong and determined fight for the Democrat nomination for president.

I know of no other instance like this. Do you? I wonder who the Senator had in mind when he made his recent statement.

Yours very truly,


Marc. Boss

MB/as