

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

### Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Arn. The subject of this box is floods. Starting on July 13, 1951, one of the most costly floods in Kansas' history swept down the Kansas River valley into the Missouri River basin. The Kansas River valley had flooded before but not with this magnitude and damage. During the period of July 9-13, some areas in the Kansas River basin received 18.5 inches of rain. The eastern half of the basin averaged 8 inches.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1951-1955 : Arn)

Date: July 1951-September 1951

Callnumber: Governor Edward Arn correspondence, Box 56

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 309993

Item Identifier: 309993

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/309993](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/309993)

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## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Mr. G. L. Nelson  
Bennington, Kansas

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, concerning the flood situation along Highway # 81 near Bennington.

I am extremely interested in doing everything within my power to correct any conditions within our state which tend to cause anyone to suffer from such disastrous floods as we have just experienced, and I am taking this matter up with the Highway Commissioners and Director.

You may be assured that every effort will be made to determine a solution to this problem.

Thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, I remain,

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

### CITY OF BENNINGTON

Bennington, Kansas

July 24, 1951

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Edward F. Arn  
Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir;

Like nearly everyone in Kansas I have flood trouble also.

My sisters and I own some farm land at the North junction of U.S. 81 and K 18, 1 mile West of Bennington, Kansas. During this last flood, water ran over the highway grade 4 to 6 inches deep for a distance of not less than 2 miles. In this 2 mile stretch there are only 2 outlets, one of them claimed to be 7 x 5 feet and that throws the water uphill to the Northeast, the other 2 x 2 feet throws a small amount to the East.

I feel that we should either have more outlets or else high dikes, I am afraid that unless things change, will not be able to keep tenants on the job. I feel that we get a lot more water on our land than some of the other land owners out there, whose land is lower than ours.

I have talked to a couple of Highway engineers at Salina, but got no results. I trust you will be able to give us some help and will be very glad to hear from you soon.

Yours very truly

*G. L. Nelson*

G. L. Nelson

GLN/bc



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Mr. Harry Wagner  
Bennington, Kansas

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, concerning the flood situation along Highway # 81 near Bennington.

I am extremely interested in doing everything within my power to correct any conditions within our state which tend to cause anyone to suffer from such disastrous floods as we have just experienced, and I am taking this matter up with the Highway Commissioners and Director. You may be assured that every effort will be made to determine a solution to this problem.

Thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, I remain,

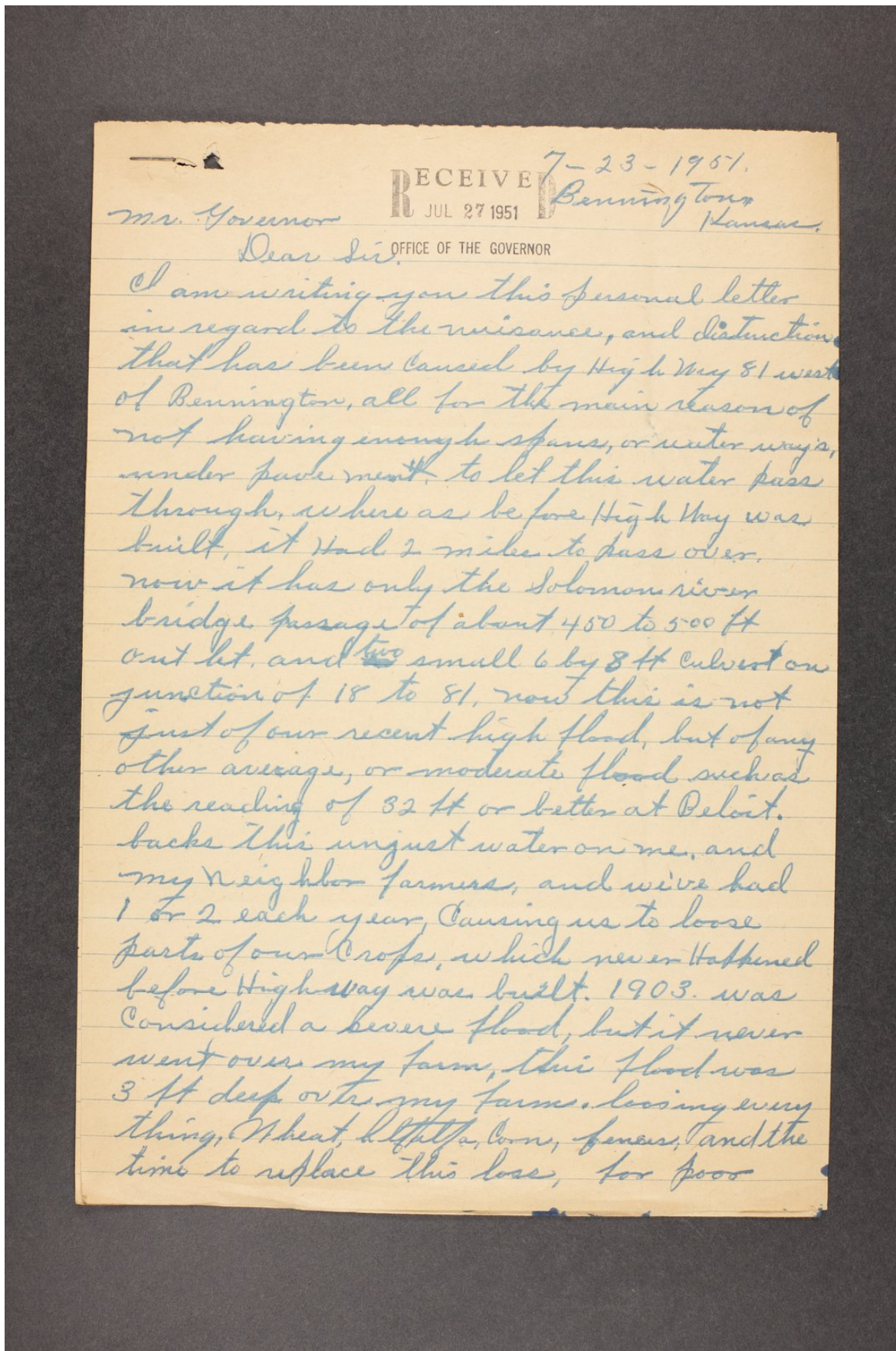
Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files





## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

Judgment, and Engineering, for this  
unjust water, that we were not entitled  
too. We cannot continue to live, pay  
these high Taxes, and try to save our  
farms, and try to put up with this  
nuisance, and unjust engineering, and  
building of high ways is not corrected.  
now if they will investigate, immediately  
the evidence they will find, will be very  
brief, without question, also they will  
see, where as they shut off natural  
water courses, and where these  
passages should be placed under  
Highway, to let this water be on its  
way, rather than holding it up, and  
backing the water on up, and ed  
don't mean, just on me, but all  
my neighbor farms, for several miles  
East West of Highway 8!

Hoping and Trusting  
that you will give this your  
most Consideration.

Thank You.  
Respectfully,  
A Farmer & Tax Payer  
Harry Wagner



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

The Honorable John M. Berkley  
Mayor of Bennington  
Bennington, Kansas

Dear Mayor Berkley:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, concerning the flood situation along Highway # 81 near Bennington.

I am extremely interested in doing everything within my power to correct any conditions within our state which tend to cause anyone to suffer from such disastrous floods as we have just experienced, and I am taking this matter up with the Highway Commissioners and Director. You may be assured that every effort will be made to determine a solution to this problem.

Thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, I remain,

Sincerely,


GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

**DIRECTORS**  
H. J. BERKLEY  
JOHN M. BERKLEY  
R. H. BERKLEY, JR.  
J. D. BERKLEY  
HAROLD R. BERKLEY

**The Bennington State Bank**  
CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND PROFITS \$85,000.00  
ESTABLISHED 1884



Bennington, Kansas  
July 24, 1951

GENERAL BANKING  
REAL ESTATE LOANS  
SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES  
FINANCING  
INSURANCE

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 27 1951  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Edward F. Arn  
Governor of Kansas  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir;

Since Highway 81 and K 18 have been built West of Bennington, we have had a continuous threat of flood damage to our city.

Highways K-18 and 81 intersect 1 mile West of Bennington at this point there is an opening 5 x 7 which unquestionably backs the water uphill on land lying West of City Limits.

With Sand Creek coming into our city from North and the overflow from river, which causes  $\frac{1}{2}$  or our town to flood, 3 times this spring.

I feel with a very small expense to the State, openings could be made in both K 18 and 81, which would greatly improve the flood situation in our town. This could also greatly relieve our farmers who own land West and North of 81 and K-18, also their homes which have been flooded many times since 81 has been constructed, without any serious objections to the damage the road has done.

I sincerely hope you will get some action to correct this unjust situation as quickly as possible.

Respectfully  
*John M. Berkley*  
John M. Berkley  
Mayor of Bennington  
Kansas

JMB/bc



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Mr. Leonard B. Rupert  
Bennington, Kansas

Dear Mr. Rupert:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, concerning the flood situation along Highway # 81 near Bennington.

I am extremely interested in doing everything within my power to correct any conditions within our state which tend to cause anyone to suffer from such disastrous floods as we have just experienced, and I am taking this matter up with the Highway Commissioners and Director. You may be assured that every effort will be made to determine a solution to this problem.

Thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, I remain,

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

Bennington Kans  
July 24, 1951

The Honorable Edward F. Arn  
Governor of Kansas  
Topeka Kansas

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 1951

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Sir:

a few years ago K.18 and 81 highways were built as there are not enough bridges or openings in these roads from Bennington west to K 18 and where K 18 meets 81 west of Bennington north and south for around a mile there are not enough bridges to carry the flow of water. at flood stage anyone can see the water is several feet deeper on west side of 81 than on east side also several feet deeper on north side of K 18 than on south side at these places. This is of course backing water up on our homes and farms several feet deeper than if there were more openings in these roads.

Something definitely should be done about this as soon as possible.

My farm is little over mile west of 81 on the Solomon river so my neighbors and I are hoping something can be done.

Respectfully  
Leonard B. Rupert.



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Miss Bernice Kientz  
Rural Route # 5  
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear Bernice:

I was very happy to get your letter of July 25, in which you told me of the terrible condition around your home as a result of the disastrous floods.

At this time I know of no plans for flood control which would involve or damage your property in any way, so perhaps you are needlessly alarmed.

You may be assured that everything possible will be done to help you, your family, and your friends at this time in your efforts to recover from this devastation.

Thanking you again for letting me know of the conditions of your home, I remain,

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

#5  
 Manhattan (8)

July 25, 1951

DEAR GOVERNOR ARN,

I am four-teen years old and  
 just a farm girl, but I love  
 the farm. We live on a place  
 called Hunter's Island about  
 a mile south of Manhattan.  
 There are nine in our family.  
 When the floods came  
 they ruined our 300 acres of  
 crops. All they left was our  
 home and a five-acre patch  
 of field corn. My father  
 rowed a boat 23 miles every  
 day during the floods to  
 help our neighbors care for  
 their livestock and our 80  
 head of pigs. We had about  
 six hundred chickens, but  
 we only have about forty  
 left. My brothers and I  
 had three 4-H calves, but they



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

are poor and sickly now,  
being with out much food  
for the last two weeks.

Our neighbors on Molt-  
man's Bottom just a little  
south of us lost everything,  
their homes too. There were  
about 8 families that lost  
their homes and about 3  
families that still have their  
homes, but have no way  
to get to them.

Some people say the  
Army is going to condemn  
our homes and make us  
leave. But where would we  
go? We've lived here so long.  
Even if there are some old Rudy  
Bodies that say they'll never  
come back.

Please, Governor Arn, help  
us get a good road, electricity,



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

and see that they don't take  
our homes away. We love it  
here.

We had a 4-H Club (The  
Riverview) with 28 members.  
I made a lot of friends  
and I sure would hate to  
lose them all.

Some people have been  
so nice. My father has a  
job on the Philroad now.  
But we would like to keep  
our farm like a lot of our  
neighbors.

I wish I could tell you  
more, but you wouldn't  
understand until you see  
it. "Please, see what you can  
do." "The Lord will Bless You."

Yours truly,  
Bernice Kientz



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

The people who lived  
and will live on Hunter's  
Island if we have a good  
road and electricity.

Kimball 3 <	Conrow 5 <
Brooks 4	Cline 4
Lee 2 <	Ashton 2
Giles 3 <	Ashton 3
Giles 4 <	Radgett 4
Wright 4	Gilman 4 <
Radgett 5 <	Collins 5 <
Ashton 3 <	York 2
Dugan 5 <	Kientz 1
Lirol 2 <	York 4 <
Kientz 9 <	Rutz 8
Johnson 2 <	Portuese 3 <
Repp 3 <	Clark 2 <
Bergman 2 <	Barry 3 <
Bayer 5 <	Barry 3 <
Adolph 5	Hayes 2 <
Schwartz 1 <	Patnode 4 over



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

Clark 4  
Dockins 2  
Dockins 3  
Farmer 5  
136 total  
38 families  
3 1/2 houses  
School house

people will live  
in the house even  
if the ones named  
here don't.



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Mr. C. W. Gerdes  
Rural Route # 2, Box 6  
Mound Valley, Kansas

Dear Mr. Gerdes:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the matter of flood control for our state.

*time* The first great problem facing the state at this ~~time~~ is the relief and rehabilitation of the thousands of citizens who suffered direct loss in the flood, and the determination of the ways and means to accomplish this.

Interrelated with this immediate program is the determination of what can be done to prevent another such terrible catastrophe. This is going to take the combined thinking and sincere effort of all of us to attain the best possible course among the highly diverse and complex interests and opinions over the state.

Thanking you for your thoughtful suggestion as to how to solve this vital problem concerning the welfare of our state, I remain,

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

Mount Valley Kans. July 24  
 Governor Arn & Spokes Kans.  
 Dear Sir - (2)  
 please excuse pencil, is nervous, nearly  
 eighty years old. Have felt condemned over a  
 week for not giving my idea on flood control.  
 so hope you will excuse me and have my  
 ideas published for the benefit of our state.  
 My statements will be short  
 and concise but will cover the ground.  
 Respectfully yours  
 C. W. Serdes  
 Mount Valley  
 Kans.  
 Re. Box 6  
 Please don't attach my name  
 to the article, my address is enough,  
 I am not seeking notoriety.



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

(Subject Flood Control.)

The first subject is on reservoirs,  
the second subject will be flood control.

For two weeks flood in all the  
rivers from three to six miles wide would take  
one sixth of the states area to hold all the water and  
whereas the flood would take one crop the reservoir  
could take the crops where they are every year till the  
end of time, these so called scientific engineers  
wouldnt make the center of the lake under a hill or  
hills, no, but in the lowest & richest farm land,  
we would be taxed to death to buy all that fertile  
land. The people of Kansas dont like to be sold down  
the river, what they want sold down the river is water,  
and not jug it up, as that would have a tendency  
to make it rain more, besides, cause the state  
to have less acre cropage and injure the states name  
to induce new comers!

(Subject, Flood contrallac follores.)

Example, - Would say the Necho is seventy yards wide at  
top edge, build enormous dikes seventy yards away on lower  
side of river, every farmse would be tickled to death to  
have his farm made into a garden of Edess and  
wouldnt take one tenth the land it would take  
to build all those large reservoirs.

I am in for the benefit of my state  
and make every citizen fool secure in it.

Wound Valley

Kann.

R. L. Boye

(For publication.)

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

August 1, 1951

Mrs. Otto Johnson  
Randolph  
Kansas

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 1951, regarding the proposal of the Tuttle Creek Dam Project, as a means of flood control.

The first great problem facing the state at this time is the relief and rehabilitation of the thousands of citizens who suffered direct loss in the flood, and the determination of the ways and means to accomplish this.

Interrelated with this immediate program is the determination of what can be done to prevent another such terrible catastrophe. This is going to take the combined thinking and sincere effort of all of us to attain the best possible course among the highly diverse and complex interests and opinions over the state.

Thanking you for your thoughtful suggestions as to how to solve this vital problem concerning the welfare of our state, I remain

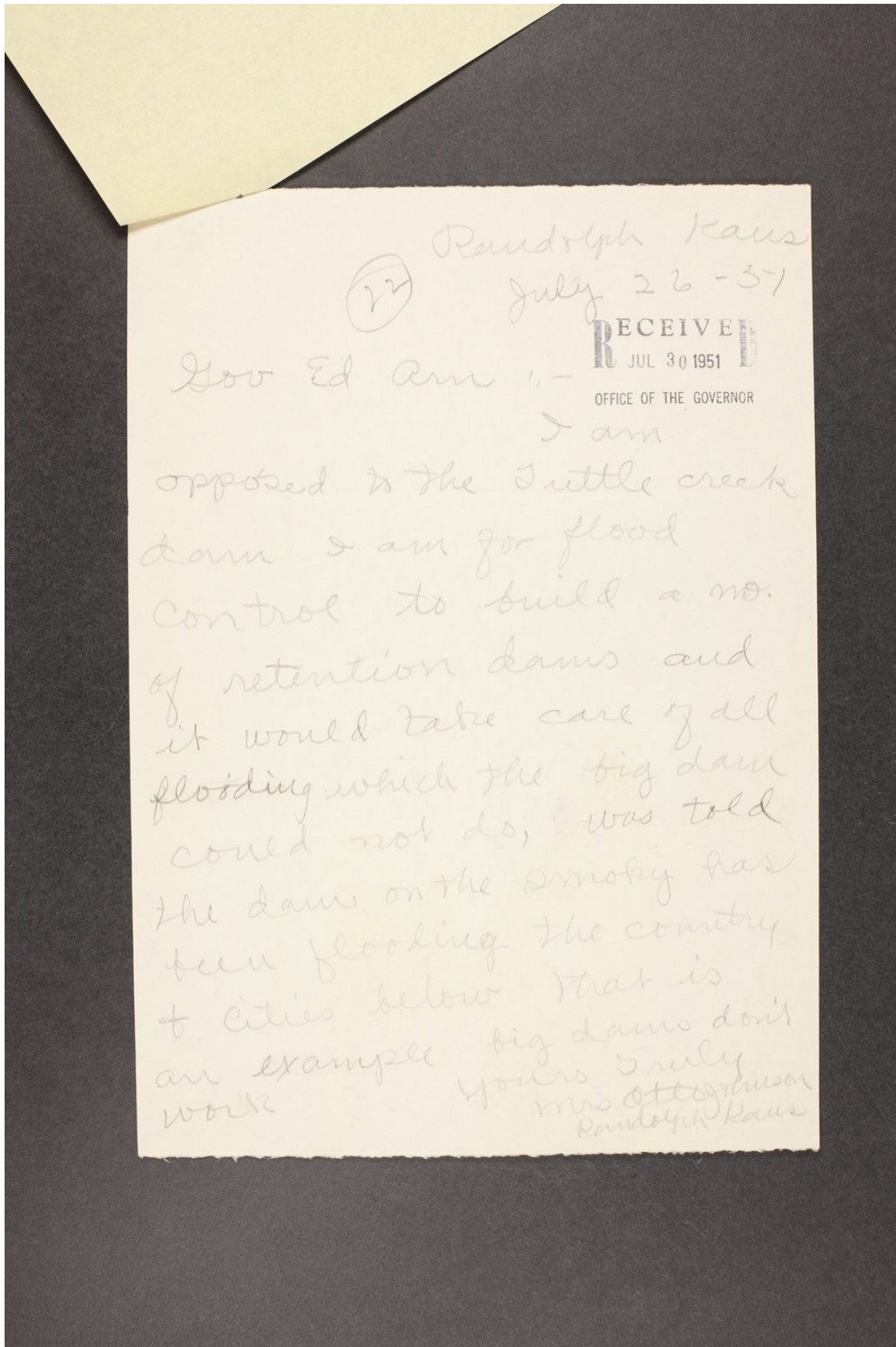
Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

EFA:iq



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

*flood control*

August 1, 1951

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson  
Garrison, Kansas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, regarding the matter of flood control for our state.

The first great problem facing the state at this time is the relief and rehabilitation of the thousands of citizens who suffered direct loss in the flood, and the determination of the ways and means to accomplish this.

Interrrelated with this immediate program is the determination of what can be done to prevent another such terrible catastrophe. This is going to take the combined thinking and sincere effort of all of us to attain the best possible course among the highly diverse and complex interests and opinions over the state.

Thanking you for your thoughtful suggestions as to how to solve this vital problem concerning the welfare of our state, I remain,

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:fk



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

(6) Garrison, Kansas  
July 25, 1951

Gouverneur Edward F. Arn  
Topeka, Kans.

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 1951  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Gouverneur Arn,

As soon as the floods struck Kansas, General Pick and the Kansas City Star began their whirlwind campaign. And you immediately jumped upon the band wagon. One woman from Kansas City stated that the K.C. Star was so busy advertising General Pick that flood news was secondary to him.

Their propaganda and statements continue to contain falsehoods. They bring or take their own publicity men wherever they go - at the taxpayers expense.

People in Manhattan, as well as elsewhere, know that it was not the Blue river that flooded Manhattan, Fort Riley, Solomon, Salina, Lindsberg and the other cities. The waters from the Blue were increased drop in the flood bucket.

The army engineer's record in this state is nothing for them to be

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

proud of. Their failure to keep their agreement to build dykes around Topeka is one example.

The performance of Kanapolis Dam is another. It did more damage than good during the flood. The dam full - with flood gates open before, during and following the flood. Some record! So, what good are big dams?

And Pick says that we who live along the Blue could have prevented this if we had not opposed Tuttle Creek.

We in the Blue Valley realize the seriousness of this destructive flood.

However, you realize as we do that much of the loss especially in the big industrial districts could have been averted had they not built upon "the sands." Must we give up our farms because of this?

The town of Marion is trying to solve their own problem by moving to higher ground.



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

It's a very serious statement to say that large dams are the only solution. Does one man know all the answers?

Wiping out one fertile valley after another off the map of the state certainly deserves consideration. Putting dams on poorer land is something else.

Why shouldn't we work to retain our farms and places of business when we know we would not receive full value for them if Little Creek were put in?

We feel that you are not looking after the best interests of our state when you back the propaganda put out by General Pick.

yours Sincerely

Mr & Mrs W. M. Johnson

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

S. 1935

82nd CONGRESS  
1st Session

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

August 1, 1951

Mr. HENNINGS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A B I L L

To provide payment for property losses resulting from the 1951 floods in the States of Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That this Act may be cited as the "Flood Claims Act of 1951".

SEC. 2. (a) There is hereby established in the executive branch of the Government a Flood Claims Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", which shall be composed of five members, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Two members of the Commission shall be residents of the flood area as hereinafter defined. The members of the Commission shall receive for their services a salary of \$50 per day while engaged upon the business of the Commission, and in addition thereto, necessary traveling expenses in accordance with the standardized government travel regulations. Three members shall constitute a quorum.



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

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(b) The Chairman shall be designated by the President from among the membership of the Commission. The Chairman shall exercise the executive and administrative functions of the Commission, including functions of the Commission with respect to (1) the appointment and supervision of personnel employed under the Commission, (2) the distribution of business among such personnel and among administrative units of the Commission, and (3) the use and expenditure of funds: PROVIDED, That in carrying out any of his functions under this section, the Chairman shall be guided by the general policies of the Commission and by such decisions, findings, and determinations as the Commission by this Act may be authorized to make.

(c) A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall not impair the authority of the remaining members to exercise all of its functions. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original selection.

SEC. 3. Subject to the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, the Commission may provide for the appointment and fixing of compensation and allowance of officers and employees, and make such expenditures as may be necessary to carry out its functions. Officers and employees of any other department or agency of the Government may, with the consent of the head of such department or agency, be assigned to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions. The Commission may, with the consent of the head of any department or agency of the Federal Government, the several State governments, or their local governments, utilize the facilities and services of such department

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

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or agency in carrying out the functions of the Commission. The Commission may, in its discretion, employ the services of insurance companies and adjusters, appraisers, architects, engineers, and others for compensation under contract.

SEC. 4. (a) The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary for carrying out its functions, and may delegate functions, powers, and duties to any other department or agency of the Federal Government. Upon the organization of the Commission, the Commission shall prepare for distribution, appropriate claim forms with accompanying instructions; and perform such other functions as are essential to its work. The Commission shall give public notice of the time when, the limit of the time within which, and the places where, claims may be filed, which notice shall be given in such manner as the Commission may prescribe.

(b) Under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, the Commission shall have authority to make settlement of claims as herein-after provided for. All decisions of the Commission shall be final and conclusive, but it may review any decision for error.

SEC. 5. The Commission shall (1) for the information of the President and the Congress, survey and determine the extent, location, and character of damage to property occasioned by the 1951 floods in the States of Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma declared by the President to be major disasters under the provisions of Public Law 875, Eighty-first Congress (herein referred to as "the flood"); (2) on the basis of its findings establish a system for the filing and adjudicating of claims and payments for loss or damage resulting from the flood to



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

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property of any qualified person as hereinafter defined; (3) compensate to extent hereinafter provided for and within limit of funds made available pursuant to section 19 for loss or damage resulting from the flood to property of any qualified person.

SEC. 6. (a) No claim shall be paid unless approved by the Commission or its authorized representatives.

(b) All claims of any one claimant shall be consolidated and no claim shall be approved in an aggregate amount which exceeds the cost of replacing, repairing, or rebuilding such property, less depreciation at the time of damage, as determined by the Commission but in any event for not more than \$1,000,000 for any one claimant: PROVIDED, That before making payment for any claim the Commission shall reduce the approved amount of the claim by the following deductions which shall be cumulative: (1) \$100 plus 25 per centum of the next \$10,000; 50 per centum of the next \$90,000, and 75 per centum of the remainder; (2) the value of any prior rehabilitation of such property constituting permanent improvements made by the Federal Government and the value of any prior rehabilitation of such property constituting permanent improvements made by any State or its political subdivision, and not paid for by the claimant; and (3) the amount of any insurance or other indemnity collected or collectible for such loss or damage; and the remainder shall be the amount payable.

(c) Each claim paid shall be accompanied by a certificate showing the basis of settlement.

SEC. 7. (a) The payment authorized in this Act shall be payable only to qualified persons having an insurable interest as owner,

## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

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mortgagee, lienholder, pledgee, or lessee, in such property so lost or damaged: PROVIDED, That any qualified person who acquired any deceased person's interest in any property either (1) as heir, devisee, legatee, or distributee, or (2) as executor or administrator of the estate of any such deceased person for the benefit of one or more heirs, devisees, legatees, or distributees, all of whom are qualified persons, shall be deemed to have had the same interest in such property during such deceased person's lifetime that such deceased person has held: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such heirs, devisees, legatees, or distributees shall be limited to the surviving spouse, child or children (including a stepchild, adopted child, or an illegitimate child if the latter was designated as beneficiary by the deceased person), parent (including a stepparent, parent by adoption, or person who stood in loco parentis to the deceased person for a period of not less than one year), brother, or sister of the deceased person, including those of the halfblood and those through adoption.

(b) As used in this Act, the term "qualified person" means any owner of property damaged by the flood including any church or other religious organization; any partnership, unincorporated association, trust, or corporation (or, upon dissolution, its duly constituted successor), but excluding any agency of the Federal Government and any corporation wholly owned by the Federal Government; and excluding any State Government or political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 8. The classes of property enumerated in this section are hereby excluded from protection, compensation, or consideration under this Act, and the Commission shall not make any payment, directly or



## Governor Edward Arn correspondence, subject files

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indirectly, on account of loss of or damage to such classes of property;

(a) Accounts receivable, bills receivable, records, plans, drawings, formulas, deeds, evidences of debt, securities, bank deposits, lecture notes, unpublished manuscripts, and curiosities.

(b) Other intangible property not specified in subsection (a).

(c) Such other property as the Commission may exclude for reasons of administrative feasibility.

SEC. 9. The Commission may provide for the holding of such hearings and the conduct of such investigations and other proceedings as it may deem necessary or proper for the administration of this Act. It may provide for administration of oaths and affirmations, examination of witnesses, and receipt of evidence in the course of any such hearing, investigation, or other proceedings. Evidence may be received at any such hearing even though inadmissible under rules of evidence applicable to court procedure.

SEC. 10. The Commission shall submit to the President for transmittal to the Congress such reports as it may deem necessary and shall submit a final report upon completion of its work.

SEC. 11. No claim for legal services or for any other services rendered in respect of a claim or payment under this Act to or on account of any person shall be valid unless approved in such manner as may be prescribed by the Commission; and any such claim so approved shall, in the manner and to the extent so prescribed, be paid out of the amount payable to the claimant; and any person who pays or offers to pay or promises to pay or receives any fee, other consideration, or any gratuity on account of services so rendered, unless such consideration