

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Section 8, Pages 211 - 240

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Edward Arn. Some subjects included are flood, Big Creek Watershed Association, Strawn Dam, Toronto Dam, and the Tuttle Creek Dam. 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)

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Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Big Dam Favor Not Unanimous In North Topeka.

From the headlines in the February 6 issue of The Topeka State Journal expressing the sentiments of the North Topeka people in regard to Tuttle Creek dam it appears not all the North Topekans are in favor of this dam.

Let us say it possibly 50-50—50 per cent for the dam and 50 percent undecided, except for a few of the playboys that wish to have the dam for a recreation center so they won't have to drive too far to fish and hunt.

In a few years after this dam is finished, they will find out it is not going to be a recreation center, like they pictured it to be. Also there will be a food shortage and unemployment. They probably will shout, what is that place for? Think what it is costing us and we receive nothing.

There probably isn't one person in North Topeka that would be in favor of destroying the homes of those people in Blue valley.—George Milner, 1185 Clay, Topeka.

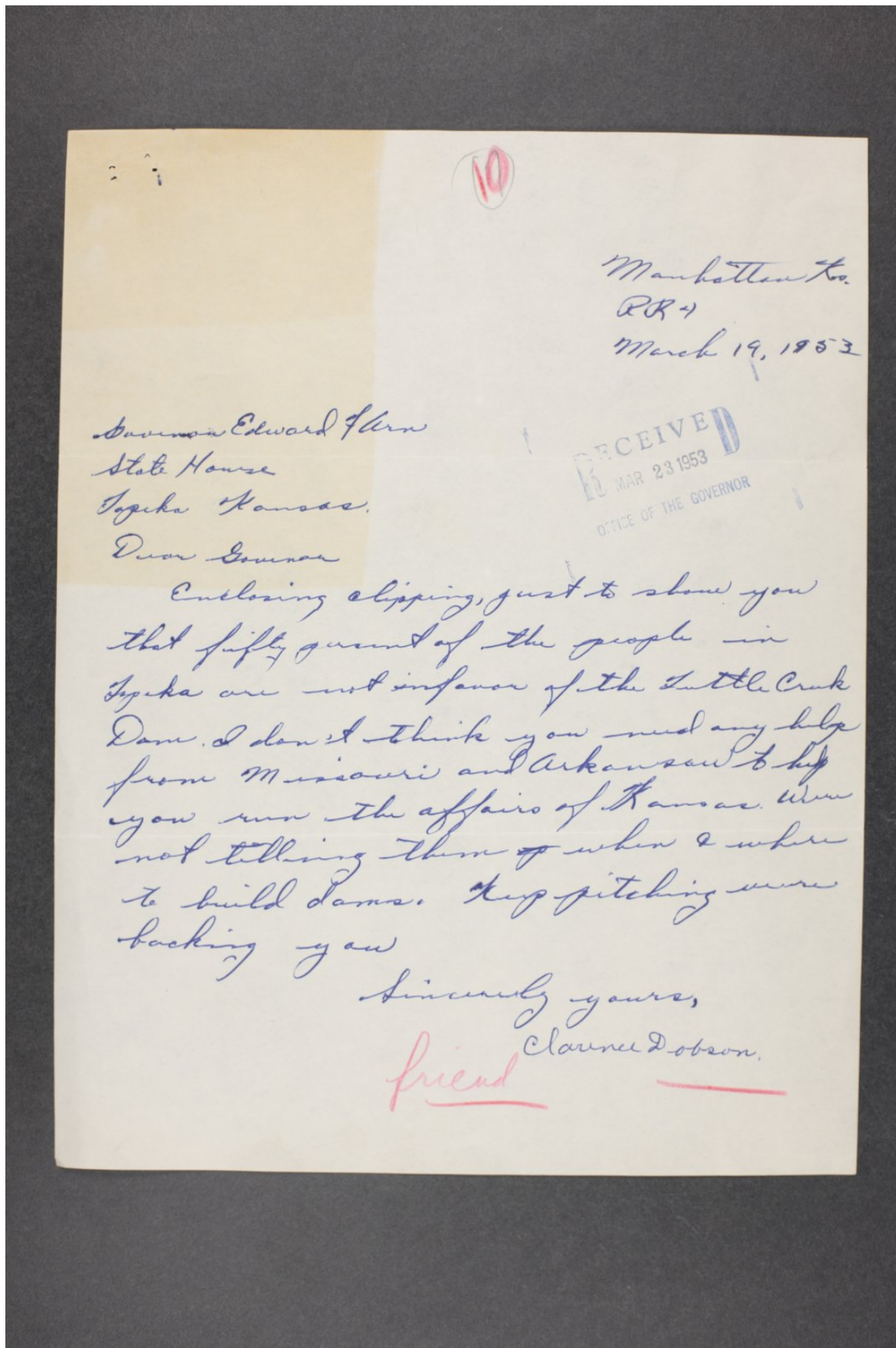
Hopes Dam Will Not Be Built.

Mrs. V. E. Vilander writes from Los Angeles, Calif., saying: Enclosed find check for a year's subscription to the Enterprise. Couldn't get along without it.

We are hoping you will never have to give up the paper because of the erection of the dam for we hope with all you people that it will never be constructed.



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Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 26, 1953

Mr. Palmer M. Mellgren
1021 Vattier
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear Mr. Mellgren:

I very much appreciate having your recent letter with regard to the engineering survey of the Kaw River Basin, particularly since you are a professional engineer.

Your ideas coincide to a great extent with the report, as you know. Personally, I cannot say which method would be the best, perhaps a combination of all of them would be the solution. At any rate, I am sure the preliminary report will be of benefit to those in Washington studying this problem.

It was a pleasure to hear from you, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

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PALMER M. MELLGREN
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
State of Kansas

1021 Vattier
Manhattan, Kansas
March 17, 1953

Governor Edward F. Arn
State House
Topeka, Kansas

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1953
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Governor Arn:

During the past few weeks, I have been interested in reading the accounts of the report of the engineering board appointed by you to study flood protection in the Kansas River Basin. It is very gratifying to know that there are prominent men of unquestioned ability who are willing to take issue with the high-handed all knowing Corps of Army Engineers.

The proposal of your survey board, that flow-ways be established in the valley through the large cities, has provided an entirely new concept of flood damage reduction for public discussion. The reasoning behind their recommendations seems very sensible and logical. It is man who has encroached on the river; not the river who is encroaching on man.

The river valleys are fertile by virtue of the fact that flood waters have at many times covered them. Statistics published by Kansas State College show that less than 10% of agricultural land was damaged by the 1951 flood and that many portions were improved in fertility. With this in mind along with the fact that the big dam program takes one acre for every two it protects, doesn't it seem rather absurd to protect farm land in the Kansas River Valley with a 1 billion dollar program?

With the truck transports a common place means of transportation, it is no longer necessary for industry to cluster along the river bank and the railroad. It would seem reasonable that industry should be encouraged, perhaps compelled, to move to high ground, secure from flooding, rather than be allowed to further and further restrict the flow of flood water.

Those who clamor for huge dams would no doubt feel very self secure if such a program were allowed to be put into effect. I feel that man's efforts to control nature in this respect may prove to be very puny; it is entirely possible that the man-made structures designed for protection be transformed into monsters bringing destruction to all who live below. I mean by this simply that no human can guarantee that none of a series of dams might fail when filled. This could happen in numerous ways: rains might occur far beyond the designed capacity of a reservoir; sabotage could release the storage water; air attack could ruin the dam; an earthquake could develop a huge opening; improper construction could cause failure. Scoffers will say such an occurrence is too remote a possibility to even be considered. Perhaps? Perhaps not! In any event, if a major

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reservoir would be loosed of its water, the depth of flow on the valley plains, instead of being 10 feet would be 50 to 100 feet. The resulting damage would be impossible to attempt to describe.

I gather that tremendous pressure is being brought to bear on the Executive as well as the Legislative department of the State Government by residents of the flood stricken sections of the Topeka and Kansas City areas. The news items convey the impression that these people feel if they do not get Tuttle Creek Dam and other similar subsequent projects, they have lost all chances for protection from floods.

We who are advocates of watershed engineering feel that these sentiments are entirely incorrect. We feel that a treatment of the entire watershed, utilizing all features of soil conservation practices in conjunction with water retarding structures on all small tributaries, will provide as much protection to downstream urban areas as the big dams, and will in addition provide great benefit to all residents of the upstream portions of the watershed. Such a program would provide a means of preserving our most vital resource, the soil, while at the same time conserving the ground water supply and affording flood protection to the entire watershed. Big dams are, after all, only retarding structures. The water will still run down the main streams eventually. It is elementary arithmetic that if enough small retarding structures are built the net result will be the same for flood prevention, as the whole of anything is but the sum of its component parts.

I wish to state that I concur with the propositions outlined by your board of engineers. I feel, however, that they definitely minimized the benefits provided by soil and water conservation practices. Perhaps their concept of soil conservation did not include retarding structures as does the more recent idea of complete watershed engineering.

I am firmly convinced that the plans of the Army Engineers are not the best for the State of Kansas. The report of your engineering board is enlightening and it is very encouraging to know that you have endorsed their proposals.

Respectfully,

Palmer M. Mellgren
Palmer M. Mellgren

PMM:ls

Pm.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 26, 1953

Mrs. Richard Hansan, President
Y. W. C. A.
Lindsborg, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Hansan:

I appreciate having the statement to the Board of Directors of the Kansas District Y. W. C. A. placing your organization on record as endorsing the primary report of the Board of Engineers, appointed by me, to survey the Kaw River Basin.

Personally, I could not say which method of flood control would be our answer, perhaps a coordination of the suggestions made in the report, soil conservation, watershed treatment along with the large dams would be the answer, I don't know. I do feel however, that the report was a contribution toward a final solution of our problem.

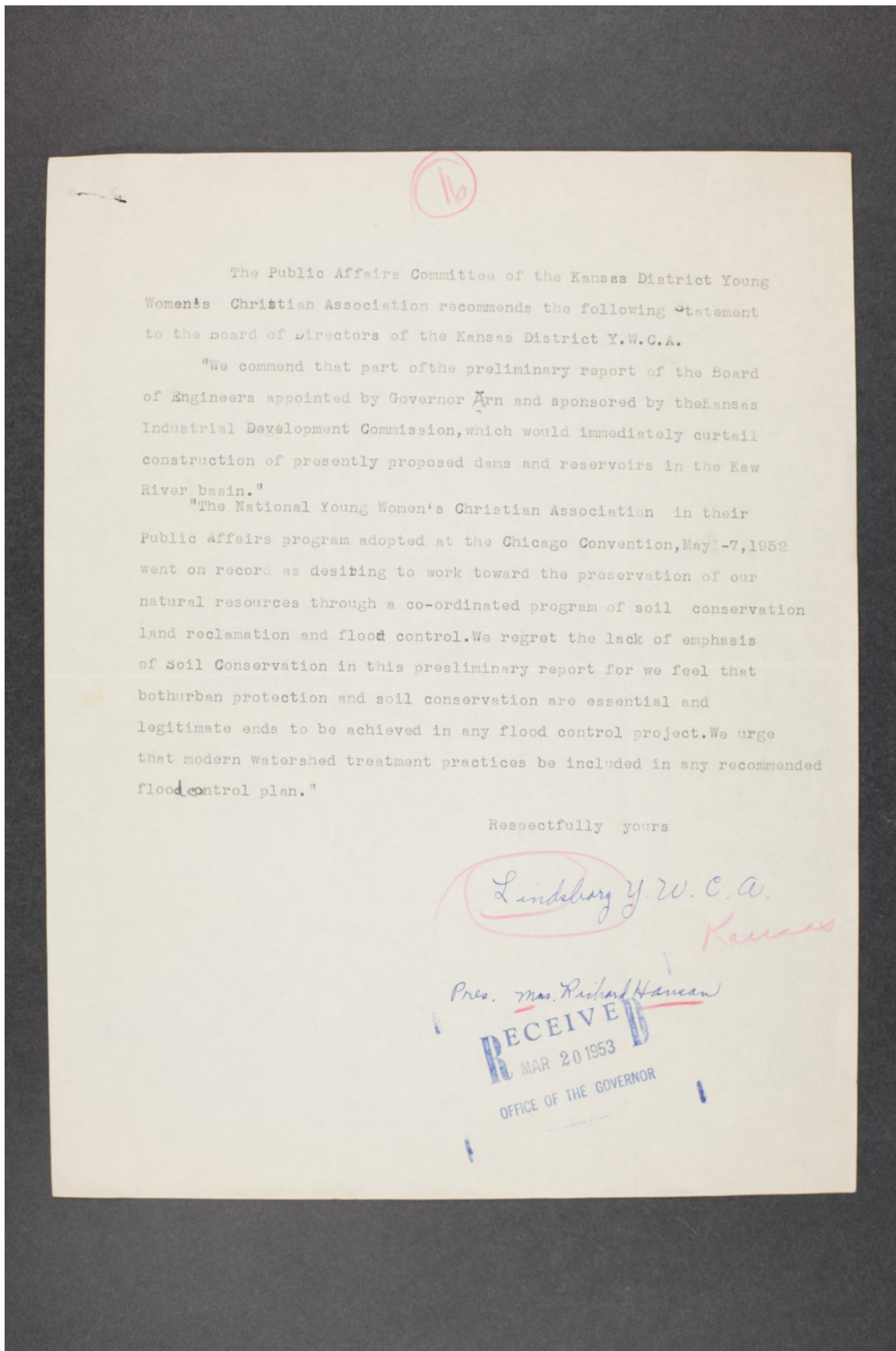
Again thanking you and your organization for your interest, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Flask

March 26, 1953

Mr. Merle E. Goff
Route 4
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear friend Goff:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 19.
I was certainly interested in your report of the recent
"operation protest" meeting and to know that there were
not as many in attendance as reported.

Thanking you again for your encouraging comments,
I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

R. 4
Manhattan, Kansas
Mar. 19, 1953

(17)

Gov. Edward F. Arn,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I just want to ^{correct} the false statements and estimates as announced over the radio that there were 1500 or 2000 in attendance at the "protest" meeting in Topeka yesterday.

A considerable number of us who are opposed to the wastefulness in expenditures and future food production, of the big dams were in attendance to get the straight facts, because we know that we cannot depend on the news reports.

I sat in the balcony where there were ^{only} about 15 or 20; to get a good view and estimate of the crowd. I counted the seats on the lower floor of the auditorium before the meeting started which was 2080.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1953
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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- That floor was approximately half filled, making the count more accurately 1000, or, at the most 1100, of which a considerable number were just "outside" spectators.

I do not know how many went to your office, but, it certainly was not the 1400 which was reported on the radio this morning. You might count the so-called "calling cards" that they left with you.

I do not know what verbal report they gave you, but, some of the statements made at the meeting by the Chairman, Mr. Z. R. Hook, certainly were highly inaccurate if not deliberately ~~or~~ knowingly false. He said that the army engineers haven't had any trouble buying land, and, that they have acquired all the land needed in the construction of Tuttle Creek dam. Mr. Germann's farm on the west side of the river and Mr. Washington's

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On the east side, each less than a half mile from the dam have not been sold to them. These certainly are needed for fill dirt to complete the dam.

I also attended the watershed meeting, at which Dwight Payton spoke, at Junction City Tuesday night. By the same method of counting I estimated that crowd to be approximately the 1000 that was reported in the news paper. That crowd was very spontaneously responsive though we passed only one resolution, which you probably have by now, instead of a multitude as was done yesterday.

Mr. Payton made the statement in his speech that the \$45,000⁰⁰ spent for your commission's work was the best investment the state has ever made. That statement was enthusiastically applauded by the crowd.

Truly yours

Merle E. Giff.

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March 26, 1953

Mr. Frank Palmer
515 Polk
Topeka, Kansas

Dear friend Palmer:

Thank you for your letter concerning a plan for flood prevention and control. I was much interested in your suggestion for using the deep tillage tool, and want to give this further consideration.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Palmer, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

May 19-1953 - (1) Dear Sir Gov Arn
 We received your letter of congratulation on
 our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you very
 kindly. It was a nice gesture. I was born
 in Silver Lake Kansas in 1882 and have lived
 in Shawnee County every since. My wife was born
 in England and came to Topeka with her parents
 when she was 6 years old and has lived here
 ever since, so you see we are old timers.
 Respectfully Frank & Margaret H. Palmer 515 Polk.
 Here is a new plan for flood control. If you
 will study it very carefully and talk it over
 with other men maybe you will like it.
 We all know the main thing is to hold as
 much of the rainfall as we can where it falls.
 Of course terracing and contour farming help
 a lot, but it should be greatly increased.
 There is a tool known as a deep tillage tool
 a bull tongue on a narrow shank that
 penetrates the soil to a depth of 12 to 20 inches.
 It opens up the plow sole so the ground
 will absorb a lot more rain water. I have
 used it when I was farming and found it
 very beneficial in conserving moisture.
 There are hundreds of little creeks and
 small ravines in the country.

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② Instead of building so many bridges over them, dams should be built, wide enough for a roadway. This would make hundreds of small ponds over the country that would hold an immense amount of water. A tube should put in the bottom to drain out all the water in dry times. Then when rains came the dam would hold the water. There should be some larger tubes just under the road way so the water would not run over the road. Perhaps the lower side of the dam should be laid up with a rock wall to prevent it from caving off. All over the country, this would be quite expensive, but the work ~~would~~ could be divided up amongst the farmers, the township boards and the County Commissioners. Would like to hear from you and come up and explain it more fully.

Yours Respectfully

Frank Palmer

515 Polk ~~street~~
Topeka Kansas

To

Gov Edw Arn

To State House

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 26, 1953

Mrs. Martha W. Pease
Chapman, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Pease:

Thanks very much for your letter and attached clippings. I was interested in your suggestions that the river beds be cleaned out, widened, and deepened, and of course, this coincides with the recommendations made by the group of engineers who recently studied the Kaw River Basin.

I appreciate your good wishes, and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Governor Arn,
My friends, or are you?
If I had a bath tub full
of dirty water.
I would not empty
another bucket full in it
I can swear to my God.
Hope this is true too.
The Rivers + creeks from
Salina to D.C. have
sand bars in center. Where
it should be deep.
Where do people expect
the water to go?
God made the Rivers
and creek for water
More fills them with

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old cars in cans.
They are now filled
with sand and piles
of trees + debris.

How about them cleaned
out and the banks
built up?

Oh God open people's
eyes. to do the right
thing and deliver us
from any more floods.

I will help you to do
what is right, in any
way I can. your friends

P.S. God give you. Mrs Martha W. Pearce
mission + deliver Chipman Kansas
You have until now.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

*Is it true the reason Hook is trying
to put the dam through
is the worthless Railroad will get a big sum of money*
* THE KANSAS CITY TIMES, THU



PRESENTING A FLOOD PLAN PROTEST TO THE GOVERNOR, Z. R. Hook (right), former mayor of Manhattan, Kas., and vice-president of the Missouri-Arkansas Basins Flood Control association, indicated the sentiments of the 1,500 citizens who marched on the state capitol yesterday afternoon. Governor Arn (left) told the group that he did not oppose the Tuttle Creek project "if it were the best thing for Kansas." He pointed out that he had no authority over the resolutions the Legislature is considering against the big dam north of Manhattan and agreed to give careful consideration to the arguments in the protest documents—(Kansas City Star photograph).

*Why don't you move these
Beavers here - and let them
build your Dam? on Tuttle Creek.*

Moberly, Mo., Bearing Down On a Colony of Busy Beavers

MOBERLY, MO., March 18, (AP)—The sweet set-up the Beavers have on Sugar Creek is turning sour.

The industrious broadtails built a dam right below the spillway of the reservoir which supplies most of the city's water.

Such activities alarmed the city fathers, who are afraid the beaver engineering project will undermine and damage the spillway. Already the water behind the beaver dam has backed up to the foot of the barrier.

H. P. Phelan, city manager, appealed to state conservation agents to trap the animals. But David Wilder, Fayette, a conservation agent, told the city it had authority to go ahead and destroy the dam.

Wilder, however, warned Phelan the beavers were persistent, and the city probably would have to tear it down three

or four times before the animals became discouraged at the lack of co-operation from humans.

The agent promised, however, that if destruction of the dam doesn't solve the problem, the city will be issued a trapping license.

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March 26, 1953

Mr. Charles R. Hamilton
721 East 8th St.
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear friend Hamilton:

I very much appreciate having your views and comments on flood control. Of course, as you know, the reports of the various surveys made of the Kansas River Basin are on file in Washington where, I am sure, they will receive full consideration.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

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Gov Edward Arn, 4 RECEIVED Kansas City, Mo.,
 Topeka / Kans MAR 20 1953 721 East 8. St.
 Dear sir: I have a GOVERNOR March 20-1953
 The farmer & industry can & would be fully
 protected from flood waters. And everything
 would work automatic. I would hate to think of
 making flood basins, making a hazard on
 any one. Dams will not make the plan & dikes
 in that the answer, dams make a hazard on same
 & dikes is only a mere promise to hold the water in
 place. Everything in the world has a mechanical
 action in some form, & the sooner we (OVER)

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Learn how to make & use these things; the sooner
we become protected from these sufferings of
humanity. God made every thing in the world & placed
man in the world to control it.
We Americans speak first of costs. The costs would
be comparative small to the damage that is ~~being~~ ^{being}
made. On your state as well as others there are
thousands of men doing time. To utilize their time
for the good of others honest citizens.
If you wished to make it worth my time
I could come to Topeka & make an
explanation of Descriptions. You specify the
amount.
I am Yr very truly yours
Charles R. Hamilton

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 25, 1953

Mrs. Ruby Johnson
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

Thanks so much for your encouraging letter concerning Tuttle Creek Dam. It is always good to receive compliments.

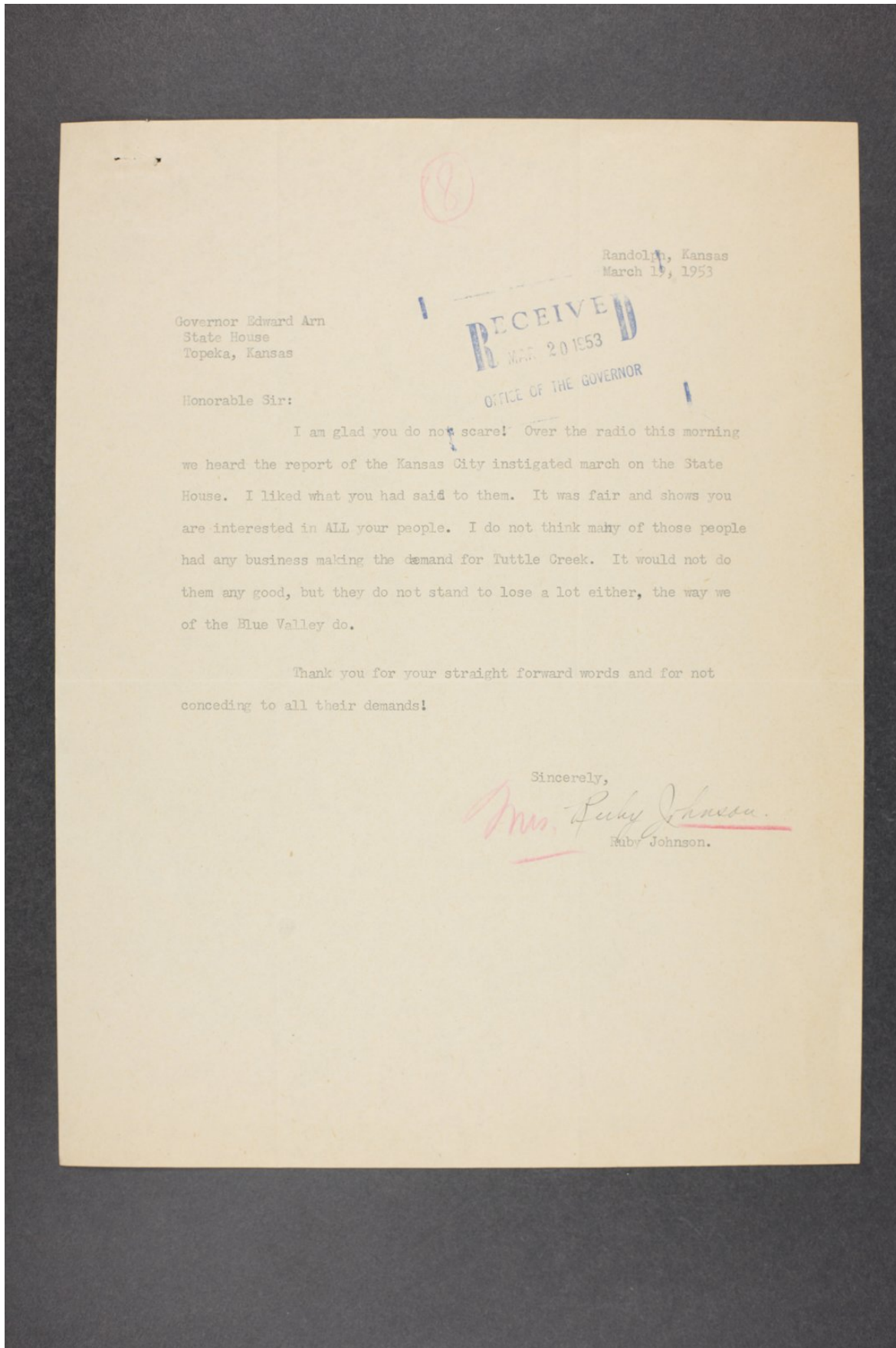
With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59



Governor Edward Arn
State House
Topeka, Kansas

Randolph, Kansas
March 19, 1953

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1953

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Honorable Sir:

I am glad you do not scare! Over the radio this morning we heard the report of the Kansas City instigated march on the State House. I liked what you had said to them. It was fair and shows you are interested in ALL your people. I do not think many of those people had any business making the demand for Tuttle Creek. It would not do them any good, but they do not stand to lose a lot either, the way we of the Blue Valley do.

Thank you for your straight forward words and for not conceding to all their demands!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruby Johnson
Ruby Johnson.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 25, 1953

Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Gardner
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gardner:

Thanks so much for your letter endorsing the independent engineer survey. I feel that it at least was a big contribution toward finding the right answer and I think all reports will be given thorough study by Washington.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Hartford, Kans
March 18, '53

Governor Edward F. Arn
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr Arn: - Some time ago, when the report was out that you were favoring big dams, we wrote you and appreciated the reply.

We feel now that your action in having an independent survey made showed fairness to all and we are just as anxious to commend your doing this as we were to condemn the big dam proposal. Quite sure they would give a similar report on other river basins as did on the Kaw.

While the engineers did not approve the watershed program for flood control, we would like to see it tried out in Kansas. They have done much in other states so why not here.

Yours for making Kansas a better state

Mr and Mrs P. C. Gardner

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 25, 1953

Dr. H. E. Eustace
1021 1/2 Mass.
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Eustace:

Thanks for your letter, and I am sorry I didn't get to see you when you were in the office the other day, but I don't blame you, I wouldn't have waded through the "operation protest" either.

Regarding the osteopathic bill, I have checked and found that this did not pass.

Thanks so much for your encouraging comments concerning legislature investigation.

It was a pleasure to hear from you, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

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102 1/2 Mason

Dr. H. E. Eustace
Osteopathic Physician
Lawrence, Kansas

Mr. H. 53.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1953
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Hon Edward Arn
Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir -

Dropped in at your office yesterday, but met the flood that came up the Kaw valley. Mr Chapman was most courteous, but helpless. I offered to play guard or to run interference in case you had to escape. He declined all help. However I did circulate about the crowd to check up on any rowdies but found none.

Wanted to voice my approval of the State Comm. report, the precinct men on the Norton affair. I was just what I had been preaching to Ed Abels at the Ki Duclue luncheon. I think the state got a bargain.

Your letter to the Keffers on their 60th was a lovely tribute. It was almost personal to me since they have been my clients for 25 years.

Now I have a personal request. I belong to the lovely Osteo for their group. We have a bill on the calendar, way down on the calendar. That would give us some relief. It must be friendly not. Would you be in position to give that nod? We would be exceedingly grateful.

Sincerely
H. E. Eustace
Ancient Law. man
Lawrence Kans

76

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 26, 1953

Mrs. E. D. Baxter
1014 Chester
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Baxter:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 1953, stating that you feel there is a definite necessity for the construction of Tuttle Creek Dam. Personally I would hesitate to say which would be the best answer to our problem--perhaps all methods are necessary. At any rate, the various reports of the survey made are on file in Washington where I am sure they will thoroughly be studied.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

EFA:mjs

*For
Tuttle Creek*

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Dear Governor Arn:

March 24, 1953

I am a Missouri Arkansas Basins Flood Control Association member who was unable to attend the meeting last Wednesday at the Auditorium because I have two little girls who I'm afraid wouldn't care to sit still and listen very long. However, I would very much have liked being there and you may add my name to those who feel we still need Tuttle Creek Dam. There were a large number here from Oakland unable to attend Operation Protest, who feel very strongly about this---as do others all along the Kaw.

We, here, don't feel resentment toward the Blue Valley residents and their leaders. We just feel they've let us down after their 1938 pledge to act---and it seems they're trying to do the same again. Also we feel they are misleading us as far as facts are concerned. So far the Corps of Engineers' explanations sound much more reasonable. Even Dwight Payton tries to alarm us by declaring the Corps a power to be feared. Why should they be feared for doing what the U. S. Congress has ordered? If they don't work on Tuttle Creek they'd have plenty of other jobs to do, I'm sure. It's plain, of course, that the Engineers feel confident in their plan. And the hundreds of thousands of dollars Payton says the Army has spent surveying the Kaw, surely have produced a "few" worthwhile answers. If they can't be considered authorities on this basin problem after all their years of study, then who else should be given more consideration?

We aren't living under illusions that Tuttle Creek will do the complete job. We understand there will have to be more to the program for the protection we seek. We don't want to have to depend on bigger and higher dikes that would only flood us with sewer and seepage water during a flood and then keep it from flowing out fast when water had lowered in the river.

One question I've had in mind is how would it be possible to get all farm people to cooperate and share the responsibility of maintenance of terraces, farm ponds and other features in the watershed plan? Of course they wouldn't object to the federal funds that would have to be used. Which brings us to another question "How much?". It could amount to quite a sum, so why do those who oppose the dams make such a big to-do about the cost of the reservoir system?

Neither can I see how any amount of soil conservation measures would have any effect whatsoever on the tremendous load of sand that the Kaw river carries. Some have advocated dredging. Now wouldn't that be a fine job! It certainly would be a constant one, anyway.

A recent issue of the Methodists' Christian Advocate even had a letter from a Blue Valley woman bemoaning the churches that are to be "lost" to the reservoir. Another example where they bring out only one-half the truth but keep silent on the other half. She neglected to acknowledge or feel sorry about the many churches which lie in the shadow of flood threat downstream.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

2.

I had a phone conversation recently with a State Representative who is definitely for watershed. (The fact that he used to, and I presume still does, own terracing machinery might have some bearing but I'll give him the benefit of the doubt to be fair.) He told me that, although they aren't "putting it out", the "big Boys" in Kansas City are pulling for Tuttle Creek dry now but later hope to get it partially filled for recreation. If there should be any truth in this statement, then I'm sure watershed people will be glad to know that the Kaw valley people and the Blue Valley reservoir farmers will be fighting side by side against such a political move---which should have the same affect as that of a buzz saw. We are for flood protection. We want Blue Valley residents to receive the fullest possible benefits of farming the reservoir area. And we can't be made to believe that the reservoir land need be worthless and kept entirely out of productivity forever.

The women of the Blue have done the most of the crusading but that doesn't mean the women here don't have opinions or are not capable of presenting them. We haven't the financial backing to take our cause personally to the U. S. President; but, since I live right here, I'd be glad to do my best to make you and our legislators realize that our women and their families here deserve a little sympathetic understanding, too.

Just about once a year I get around to borrowing my girlfriend's typewriter to write letters of this type. I shall attach a copy of one I have ready to send to the Journal's Vox Pop. The Capital hasn't been very cooperative in printing my contributions in the past so I don't even try them anymore. I have a small number of letters that I both received and wrote last year about this time. I call my file the "human approach". I wish it were possible for you and all the legislators to read these letters in my file. Even though they are my own personal opinions I've discussed this whole subject with many other people enough so that I know my opinions reflects the thinking of most of the people in this area.

Yours most sincerely,

Mrs. E. D. Bafter
1014 Chester
Topeka, Ka.