

● PSF Subject File White, William A.

PSF

Box 194

PSF: W. A. White

PERSONAL

June 14, 1938.

Dear Bill:-

That is a perfectly joyous letter of yours. What a mess! And I might add: What a menace!

You and I are often in the same fix as my Dutchess County brickyard colored "passon" who took \$4.00 from the Republicans and \$2.00 from the Democrats and almost voted the Democratic ticket on the ground that it was the more honest, but ended by staying away from the polls altogether after he was given a pint of liquor by the Prohibitionist leader.

It sounds to me like a situation in which the President of the United States cannot help in either Party either way -- at least for the moment.

Knowing T. R. and F. D. R. you will realize what a momentous admission that is!

In any event, let me know at any time if you think I can help -- sub-rosa or out loud.

I am off on a cruise in July and I know the old health is holding up because I have not bitten off the heads of any of the office staff for months.

I like that editorial of yours. Can't
you bribe the New York Times and the Herald
Tribune to run them occasionally?

My best wishes to you,

As ever yours,

William Allen White, Esq.,
The Emporia Gazette,
Emporia,
Kansas.

PS F: W. A. White

THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

W. A. WHITE, EDITOR AND OWNER
K. W. DAVIDSON, BUSINESS MANAGER
EMPORIA, KANSAS

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

June 10, 1938.

Dear Mr. President:

Here is the Kansas Senatorial situation: I have been afraid of Winrod for several years. He has all the elements of danger. He was a tent Evangelist and knows the tricks of Father Coughlin, Huey Long, and Billy Sunday. He is a nice blend of the three, temperamentally, intellectually, morally. Until six or eight months ago, he was selling Jew-baiting literature in a little seventh day millennial paper which he circulates. He sold, for instance, the "Protocols of Zion". I have made it my business to read his Weekly for several years. And when I saw the advertisement of the Jew-baiting literature ~~sent~~ out, I was scared. It was about the time that he loomed into some slight national prominence in the fight on your Court Bill. The political hookup was obvious. He has all the money he needs for the radio, which is expensive, and he has been sending out, for more than a year, about sixty thousand weekly letters well stuffed with printing--circulars, mimeographed addresses, etc--indicating that he has support--and lots of it. I heard the other day that he dropped a one hundred dollar bill in the plate at a negro church meeting after one of his own rabble-rousing address. He speaks well, either on the radio or to an audience, and is a strapping, handsome, smooth-talking man much like a medicine vendor or a soap-peddler. His religious angle is interesting. He is four degrees sub-Baptist, more fundamentally than Bryan, believes in all the prophecies of Revelations. The Methodists in Kansas are uneasy about him for

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he is violently anti-Methodist. They are too liberal for him. It is important to know this in any estimate you may make of his political strength. For one cannot assume that he is dishonest. He really believes it.

His political appeal is deeply reactionary. In the primary he is gaining headway. Unless we can change the Republican situation, he will win *the primary*.

Now for the Republican Senatorial situation in this state which you have a right to know: I am supporting Clyde Reed, but Reed is a sick man and cannot make a campaign. Reed's strength is his platform appearance. *Now* He has got to depend on a hand-shaking campaign. As a hand-shaker, he is worse than old Henry Cabot Lodge. He can pile up the votes in a Court House meeting and lose them when he marches down Main Street trying to be amiable. He has a tough-fibered brain. He knows what it means. He is courageous and he is fundamentally honest. Given his normal energy, he could lick Winrod; for this is after all a liberal state. Running against Reed and Winrod in the Republican primaries is an amiable, hand-shaking Cheshire cat named Dallas Knapp who still thinks in terms of Blaine and Logan. He will garner a few votes from Winrod but he is comparatively unknown.

Reed's friends, and I am one, are trying to get him out of the race and get another more competent liberal in the race, or a good middle-of-the-roader, like Congressman Clifford Hope, or Homer Hoch, former Congressman, or Frank Carlson. But Reed is sick and stubborn and we are up against a terribly hard proposition. And the time is short.

Now about the Democratic situation: So far, McGill is unopposed for renomination, as you know. But a

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strong group of Democrats who more or less control the Democratic political machine, do not like McGill. They are not entirely reactionary, nor conservative. They are offended Democrats. They wanted Harry Woodring and then they wanted Dudley Doolittle to run, but they feel cheated and impotent. They are not strong numerically, but they are powerful politically. What they would do if the race lined up between a clever rabble-rousing conservative like Winrod and ~~the~~ rather colorless Democratic nominee, like McGill is almost unpredictable. It is not as simple as you think, and I am scared stiff. My present feeling is that I shall support McGill against Winrod with vigor and enthusiasm, which, considering that I am on the Red Network along with out First Lady, may not help McGill. It may chase off his conservative Democratic support. But I don't know. I am puzzled and of course the weather is the X of our political equation. A good wheat crop at a good price, though you may not believe it, means Republican votes. This is normally a Republican state. The minor state officers survived your landslide. So did both Houses of the Legislature, and so did the Court Houses, And when the Republicans are feeling fat and sassy with a crib full of corn and a corral full of cattle, they revert to type and you cannot make them grateful. ~~So~~ they might vote for Winrod in spite of my screams.

I am satisfied that Dudley Doolittle can beat Winrod. It is a question whether McGill can do it because he has no personal strength, no charm, no pulling power. You can carry Kansas, (but hardly for a third term). Your personal popularity is strong, unblemished. But in a hot political fight, with all the money that Winrod can command, with

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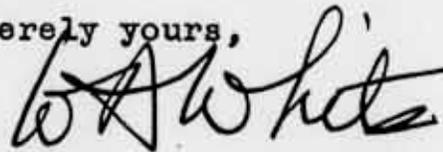
good crops, good prices and a normal Republican swing-back, McMill is in doubt.

Homer Hoch could beat him under those circumstances easily, and you couldn't do much about it. You might even hurt him by a personal appeal if the tide happened to be running against you. By tide, I mean crops, prices, business conditions and a thousand little things that magnify themselves in the last sixty days of a campaign.

It is hardly more necessary for me to mark this letter confidential than it is for you to mark yours. If John Hamilton puts me up against the wall and Jim Farley stands you up beside me, each of us for trafficking with the enemy, I hope someone will lend us a flag so that we can hold it up and tell the world that we died for our country and to hell with the party: A swell bunch of last words.

In the meantime, permit me to repeat the only message I would give you on your present job at your present age: Watch out for your prostate, the fate of a nation hangs on it. Just to give you an idea of how I am thinking, I am sending you today's editorial about Iowa.

Sincerely yours,



Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

WAW/MY.

THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

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Twenty Years Ago

July 15, 1918. The Emporia Gazette, published at Emporia, Kan., under special permission of Post Office Department. The Gazette is published at Emporia, Kan., under special permission of Post Office Department.

Rhymes of the Times

BY WALT MASON. THE SPECIALIST. How Dr. Jones appears, to dope my eyes and ears, he will not level my fondered feet or fix my inner gaze.

MUTUAL BLDG & LOAN. NOW PAID ON SAVINGS. Roberts-Blue Funeral Service. R. O. Roberts, Glenn A. Blue, Mrs. Glenn A. Blue. 619-613 Broadway Phone 71. Hemen J. Hall Post No. 5 AMERICAN LEGION. 2801st St and 11th Broadway. Legion Club Rooms. 864 1/2 Com.

THE DEEPER MEANING.

These primary contacts in the Democratic party are curiously reminiscent of the struggle in the Republican party which began when Theodore Roosevelt came to the White House and reaching a climax in 1914, slowed down during the Harding administration, began to bubble during the Hoover administration and, since released from a row to a squawk to a squeak, with the collapse of the Big Bull market. Then the Democrats took the bait.

This contemporary Democratic struggle on the surface is centered around the Roosevelt control of the senate. He does not seem to be interested in the House. There he has a heavy majority and generally a safe working majority. It was for the control of the Senate that the loudest and proudest Republicans and finally the Bull Moose crowd aimed its biggest gun.

THE FARM WOMAN.

She is a happy forty years old. Yet the other day she came riding in satiric red Joe, one of the family work horses. Her dainty reds were staid and probably left Joe by his reins. But the neighbor was clinging fast to the harness as she rode all by herself.

Quartz Wool

Berlin.—To the growing varieties of "wool" derived from almost every conceivable substance from an animal's coat to minerals, German technicians now add quartz wool, a report here states.

Farm and City Properties

FOR SALE at Reasonable Prices. Terms if Desired. Warren Mortgage Company. R. A. Latta. Emporia, Kan. Phone 605.

Censure of Civ Comes After B

Washington.—Diplomatic envoys apprised last week at 1 of-the-blue communication of an airplane bombing caused the bombing of civilians I on a single business man I went was issued, but just time and no worse than several previous months. Here is the inside story I Just two days before I on had indicated in the I parliament informally that I going to insist on to join I I.

RIVAL FOR LINDSEY.

Lieutenant Governor W. M. Lindsey of Kansas is a Democrat. He has made a good lieutenant governor. He is an intelligent, consistent, liberal, with Christianlike home sense. He has just acquired a rival in the Democratic primary; though why, Heaven knows, unless some fellow figures it just a good job and he needs it. By all the rules of the game Lindsey, a Democrat, who naturally will be liked next fall at the polls by the Republicans, should have the comfort and consolation of going through the primary without a fight.

DIRTYPOINTING COUNCIL

Senator Vandenberg isn't much about it, but his co are twisting him on the r the Advisory Council on Bortrality. You probably haven't much about this report he technical and has a jaw tendon in the press. But I semia the views of 31 sub business men, and the Social Security act, and it red extremely important.

TOO CONFIDENT.

And, obviously, and the council would are with him on his assent on demand. Vandenberg Arthur J. Altmeyer, of the Social Security be, immediate action along "The old-age pension be reduced," he cont still leave the pension sound actuarial basis I abandon the needless system and proceed a you-go basis.

Col N A T I O N A L Bar

PSF: W. A. White

Yes ✓

June 8, 1938

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bill:

Do you want to do a fellow a confidential favor? I cannot make much sense out of the Kansas situation in the Republican primaries—all I get here is a lot of rumors that a man named Winrod of whom, I must to my shame admit, I have never heard, stands a chance to beat Reed whom I used to know when we were both Governors.

The story I hear is that Winrod is openly a fascist and in addition to that, is showing KKK tendencies. Would you drop me a line in really strict confidence, putting it in a separate envelope addressed to Miss Leland—or else send me verbal word by somebody you trust? Needless to say, anything you tell me I will keep (cross my heart) between your honorable self and my honorable self.

Very sincerely yours,

William Allen White, Esq.,
Topeka,
Kansas.

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PSF: W. A. White

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

full
personal
2-40

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EMPORIA, KANS., Dec. 9, 1940

STEPHEN T. EARLY:

Will you kindly get word to the President that I feel strongly that the appointment of Winants to London would entirely remove the imprint of Joe Kennedy's Judas kiss? Winants is so completely the opposite in temperament, method and spiritual outlook of Kennedy that the British would understand his appointment and the appointment of a career diplomat with less political and moral flare might be sad disappointment to London. I hope that the President can see this as we, his friends, who are supporting his cause understand the British ambassadorial situation. Kennedy's exit was pretty terrible.

W. A. WHITE.

12:22 a. m.