

September 23, 1929.

Dear Mr. White:

Mr. Simons has asked me to answer your letter to him on the high speed wire. I wrote George Marble, president of the Kansas AP association, a couple of times before the high speed service was installed, arguing that we did not need it. He answered that his paper and ours apparently were the only ones on the Kansas wire that did not think it would be a good thing.

Earlier in the summer I had a talk with Mr. Thompson. At that time he said the Topeka, Wichita and perhaps Hutchinson papers probably would be placed on the high speed trunk, leaving us smaller papers as we were. But he put over his sales talk on a majority of the Kansas wire later.

Mr. Thompson argued that the only way for a paper to have an "individuality" in these days was for each editor to make his own selection from all the AP could send him. It seems to us here that our individuality is largely expressed thru what we do with our local field.

With the high speed output of the wire now on our hands to be waded thru somehow, we now find that proper attention to the local field is more difficult. We have no separate telegraph editor. All stuff is handled over one desk. Even throwing away unwanted stuff takes time. And there is always the possibility that reporters will be worked on psychologically by the knowledge that on dull days there will always be enough on the wire to fill the paper.

It is pleasant to have a needed story come in fast, but that is more than outweighed in handling the ones that have to be cut down or thrown away.

Summing up the situation, a few observations that occur to the man who works with the wire and local news, which have had no weight in deciding things thus far, but which seem nevertheless to be pertinent, are passed on to you: