

# THE LAWRENCE DAILY JOURNAL-WORLD

AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

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PHONE 22

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

July 20, 1949

Dear Mr. Simons--

Please excuse my failure to answer your letter promptly--I've been vacationing to the utmost and was out of town with my family for the better part of a week. I will be back on the job next Monday.

I have been mulling over your comments regarding prohibition, temperance, abstinence and the inevitable toll in human misery and lives resulting from the misuse of alcohol. We are in general agreement.

Certainly, I agree that moral (and if necessary physical) courage is required of a city editor or some other charged with directing the news gathering staff of a daily newspaper.

While I do not advocate casting the newspaper in the role of a prosecuting attorney ~~in order to~~ in order to ferret out violations and ~~to~~ to secure convictions, it is my belief that the paper can be a powerful force in marshalling public opinion behind the efforts of peace officers to enforce the law.

Without doubt, one of the factors contributing to the downfall of prohibition in Kansas was the apathy of the public toward strict enforcement. I further believe that the ultimate success or failure of the new legal control law rests largely upon the degree to which the public insists upon prompt and impartial law enforcement.

In all instances involving news generated by the Kansas transition from prohibition to legal sales, we have kept our sights on complete coverage of the situation, without (I hope) falling into everpresent

