

November 28, 1940

Mr. L. A. McNalley
Minneapolis, Kansas

Dear Mr.:

I would take my time in deciding upon the future of the Willkie Club organization. We are still too close to the last election to know if the organization should be continued.

I heartily agree with Willkie that any such organization should not be continued under his name, but I believe there is a definite place for a nationwide organization to carry on the crusade. This word "crusade" is frequently misused, but it has a correct application in this instance.

The success of the program and the character of its work would largely depend upon the type of national leadership. A man like Willkie could head up a strong opposition which would tend to hold the New Deal in check, but the wrong sort of individual could gradually warp the program into promulgating a philosophy of government as bad as New Dealism. I am thinking how the black shirts and the brown shirts got their start.

My suggestion is to wait and see if worthwhile national leadership can be expected for a Kansas organization.

It is unfortunate the animosity has developed. Everything I have heard has come second hand. I knew there would be trouble when the group was first organized in Kansas, but I cannot see where there can be any great amount of just criticism over the fact that the Willkie Clubs did not go to bat for the state Republican ticket. The Willkie Clubs were organized so that all individuals favoring Willkie could join in a concerted movement. Prominent Democrats were told plainly they would not be expected to support the entire Republican ticket. There was no other way to do.

I hope we can have a good organized opposition thruout the country. It would hold the New Deal in check and could have a pronounced favorable effect upon the congressional election in 1942.

Love to all the McNalleys,