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July 13, 1940

Mr. Dolph Simons
The Lawrence Journal-World
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dolph:

Delighted with your letter, because I know it gives an exact inside view of Mac's position, and I think from your outline he has certainly performed perfectly in dealing with the situation here.

Perhaps I did not make the situation clear with you; there was no break with Mac and the other fellows on the delegation. In fact, I never have seen a more harmonious delegation of 18 men than that one. You must always remember that in a group of that size you have divergent opinions, and the test of leadership is to iron them out and work things along. And I think everyone will agree that Kansas leadership met that test, and that the delegates individually are each entitled to be included in that group. And Frankly, I don't think many outsiders meddled; I know I didn't.

When I was talking to you it was purely from a standpoint of personal interest in the strong friendship I have for you, and knowing your interest in Mac. I doubt whether there was any group giving Willkie more support than we were giving him, but we also realized that there are times when things can be done and times when breaks merely are a bold stroke and don't obtain results.

I will take the first opportunity I have to have a visit with Mac, but it will be purely on a personal basis. What he may do politically will have nothing to do with my feelings for him since he is so close to you. Years of experience have taught me that all the good fellows don't agree, and we can talk things over and still be friends. But from what you say I will pass this word along to some of our friends and suggest that when they are having a conference about the general situation they call him in and talk things over. Of course I know you realize that I never sit in at conferences. If I did, the Democrats would drag me in, or maybe the Socialists, and what-not!