

4 August 1948

Mr. Ray A. McConnell, Jr.
Editor, Lincoln Journal
Ninth and "P" Streets
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. McConnell:

Without aligning ourselves with Terry Carpenter, who as far as we can ascertain is politically akin to Gerald L. K. Smith, we would like nevertheless to take issue with your dissertation on the two party system (More or Less Personal, August 4). The tweedledum, tweedledee nature of the two major parties, with each seeking to find the broadest possible base on which to build a platform, inevitably results in reducing issues to the lowest common denominator, creating a perfect milieu for machine control rather than public participation.

The failure, therefore, of the Republicans and the Democrats to stand for distinctive principles breeds apathy which even in the peak voting year (1940) resulted in more than 40 percent of the potential voters staying away from the polls. This year, that figure will undoubtedly be closer to 50 percent. This same failure creates conditions which necessitate the existence of the Socialist Party, which under present conditions is vital in clarifying issues.

One consequence of third party action is that through the years, many features of the platforms of the Socialist Party have gradually been absorbed by the major parties, as outlined in the current issue of LOOK magazine. This slow process of osmosis, however, is greatly inadequate to the present situation with its threat of war, which if it becomes fact will

more more

destroy all democratic processes.

Neither the continuation of the cold war as endorsed by the two major parties nor the fuzzy-minded appeasement program of Henry Wallace is calculated to bring peace. The stand of the Socialist Party is therefore more significant than ever before.

Very truly yours,

David Fleming
John O'Hare
Wayne Wheeler
Joseph Ishikawa