

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1943

My dear Mr. Sparks:

Your letter received. Am in a terrific jam - worse than your's I'm afraid. Had counted heavily on some help. The result is that the check for my insurance premium has gone back unpaid, and the last day of grace was last Friday the 12th. I'm just about sick over the whole business, as it probably means that in another two days my insurance will lapse.

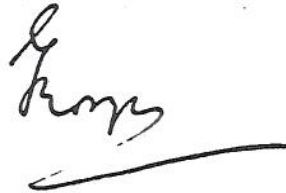
I understand quite well the expense to which you have been put. This I believe is my last hurdle, but it is apparently the highest one and it looks as though I am going to trip and go on my schnozola.

I gather from your letter that you are discouraged over the failure of the Hopkins missive to arrive. You can still say that the original letter is available, because it will be if I have to invoke the pressure of the Secretary to get it. As to the Taft letter - we couldn't reproduce that in any event without her consent, and the trouble there would be that if you asked permission to show the signature she would probably forbid the use of the letter entirely. So I think we are better off as it is. I am confident that you have a powerful document that is going to have a profound effect upon the coming political situation. And if worse comes to worse we can force some one's hand in the Hopkins-Lee affair. We will discuss it further when you come to Washington.

Please get a little advance help from these red-hot Republicans who are so anxious to lick Willkie. You and I have done a lot of ball carrying in the past three years and have paid through the nose. It's about time for some relief.

Wire me a little encouraging news. I need it. I repeat the new address - 3034 Buchanan, So., Arlington, Va. Telephone - Temple 8038.

Sincerely,



LETTERS TO NELSON SPARKS—Senator Langer, Republican, of North Dakota told the Senate yesterday the two letters above were sent by George N. Briggs, assistant to Secretary of Interior Ickes, to C. Nelson Sparks. The latter reported in his book, "One Man—Wendell Willkie," that Harry Hopkins had written a letter to Dr. Umphrey Lee, president of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, regarding Mr. Willkie as the Republican candidate in 1944.