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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

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KANSAS CITY, KANS.

June 4th 1927.

Governor Paulen,  
Topeka, Kans.

My Dear Governor: I hope it will not appear that I am playing the role of a meddler in writing you this letter. In the first place, I wish to say, that I have no direct or personal interest in the matter whatever; but am pleading for fair play only. At the meeting of the trustee board of the state industrial department of Western University this week, there seemed to have been a strong opposition upon the part of some the trustees to re-elect Supt. Peck. Now Governor, I have just this to say: In the management of that school, Peck has not had a square deal by some who are connected with the school, and by many outside meddlers.

There were teachers in the school, who were made to believe, that the best thing they could do to insure their re-election, would be to disregard the authority of Superintendent Peck. There those who want his place, and in order that they might get it, they have kept some of the teachers in a state of constant rebellion. The only surprise is, that Peck has done as well as he has, under the circumstances. There are conditions there, that Peck has not exposed, and I am sure, that should you see Peck, and have a confidential talk with him, assuring him that the facts given you would not be exposed, you would find out some things that you, perhaps, have no dream of.

There are teachers there, who have done all in their power to break down the morale of the school, with [assurance that such a course would be the means of putting him out. When these teachers were spoken to by Peck, they would give him to understand that he had no authority over them, and that they were not amenable to him. My Dear Governor, I wish to say, that there is a very bad state of affairs out there, and it can not be remedied until the teachers are made to understand that the board will stand behind Peck in the just administration of his duties. Again, I wish to say, that I am writing you, only in the interest of fair play, and without ever once hinting to Peck or any one else, that I thought of writing you. Praying that you may have [abundant success in the administration of the affairs of the state, and that yourself and family are enjoying the blessings of health &c, I am,

Obediently yours  
(Rev.) J. D. Barksdale