March
First,
1940.

Judge Alex L. Ratliff,
Frankfort, Ky.

Dear Judge:-

About two weeks ago I was in Paintsville and while there
had a nice visit with Jim Turner. At that time he told me that
he had attended four Lincoln dinners within the week; that it
was his understanding that Harry Ramey would be a candidate for
judge of the Court of Appeals, if he could get the nomination
without a contest, but otherwise not; that in Louisville it was
the understanding that Judge Sampson would be a candidate. I have
seen Harry on two different days this week, and I get the informa-
tion through the gentlemen whom I mentioned to you as considering
being a democratic candidate that Harry stated to him that he was
going to be a candidate, with or without opposition. Our friend
threw up his hands and told me he would not be a candidate after
I stated to him the conditions in the Cumberland Valley.

In my judgment, you can win over either Harry or Judge
Sampson, and your work there has been of such an outstanding na-
ture that you should without question be re-elected.

It occurs to me that if Harry and Judge Sampson are in a
contest for the republican nomination in August, and if you have
no democratic opposition, that it would probably be easier to
win over both of them in the primary, when they will be dividing
the vote between them, than it would be in November, to fight
either of them as the republican nominee; in other words, it
might be a good idea for you to file reasonably early for the
democratic nomination, and then at the last minute to file for
the republican nomination as well. Of course, I do not give
much attention to politics, and before deciding on such a course
you should consider it well and secure the advice and better
judgment than mine of such friends as Dan Talbott, Bob Humphreys,
Zack Justice, Herb Smith, and others.

I was in Pikeville last night and had a nice visit with
Zack for about one and one half hours, during which time your
interests were discussed at length.

Best personal wishes,

Very truly yours,

JDH.