

May 15, 1945.

Mr. Charles B. Shaeffer, Director,
War Production Board,
414 Interstate Building,
Kansas City 6, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Shaeffer:

Our large dining room and ballroom floor of white maple at the Lawrence Country Club is badly in need of care. This spring we sanded, waxed and polished the floor. This was done by contract labor. We have no waxing, polishing or scrubbing machine, and to insure the longevity and care of this floor we are badly in need of this machine. It has been impossible for us to rent or purchase one heretofore, and our floor is badly disintegrating.

Since the Eldridge Hotel, the only first class hotel in Lawrence, is badly overcrowded and the Union Building ballroom at the University is used as a dining room for the Naval V-12 Unit at the University which makes this floor unavailable for dances or other large gatherings, the Lawrence Country Club ballroom and dining room floor has been used for parties and large gatherings of the Hercules Powder Company and the Sunflower Ordnance Works. The DuPont Powder Company has a large force taking special training here and they are quartered in Lindley Hall at the University, but they use the Country Club for their parties and large gatherings. The University of Kansas has been happy to extend to both the Hercules people and the DuPont people the use of Robinson Gymnasium, but for social functions the Lawrence Country Club is the only available space.

Through the winter and up to the present, Hercules and DuPont have used the club on an average of twice a month. This takes the entire club facilities, both upstairs and downstairs, for that evening. The wear on the floor is excessive, and unless we can get a waxing machine we face a situation where disintegration is emphatic. In addition to the Hercules and DuPont people, the floor is also available to the Naval V-12 unit of which there are about 300 trainees. We have also had an ASTP unit, for which this floor was available.

At the last party and dance of the Hercules Powder Company, 300 people used this ballroom floor. I state this to emphasize the tremendous beating this floor takes. The club is located two miles out of Lawrence and naturally in a place of this location more dirt and debris are carried in on the floor than on a ballroom floor in the city. This adds to the general breakdown of the floor surface.