

April 4, 1941

Mr. Henry Werner  
Dean of Men  
1 Frank Strong Hall  
University of Kansas

Dear Fritz:

When I was a boy they sold large celluloid buttons that the youngsters wore on the lapels of their coat. One that I remember particularly well read as follows: "Tell your troubles to a policeman. Nobody else wants to hear them." This reminds me that I should inhibit my desire to write you this letter, but the inhibition is not strong enough, so here goes.

For five or six years the District Festival, the Midwest Band Festival, and other festivals, consisting of hordes of fine young students from the high schools, together with a copious amount of wind and brass instruments, have descended upon the gymnasium and made our teaching impossible, not only in the gym but in our classrooms, which are located in the gymnasium.

I have implored the administration and the powers that be, to petition the Union Building for such quartering as checkrooms for wraps and instruments, and a general meeting place for this great group of prospective students, but it has been of no avail.

It seems to me that this would be the logical place to quarter these youngsters because it would be selling the youth of the State, in their very beginning, this fine Union Building. Its atmosphere is cheery, homelike and friendly. While, on the other hand, we are forced to send the youngsters down to the basement which quarters the toilets and the shower bath. It is like putting the youngsters in your basement at home when they come to visit.

The only objection that I can see to the use of the Union Building is that the gym is close to the auditorium, while the Union Building is across the campus, which occasions a trek by the students across one of the most beautiful campuses in America. I am wondering if you do not see the logic in my argument, so far as the utility, the reception to the students and the proper handling of these youngsters is concerned.

The girls in the bands are likewise forced to go to the basement of the women's dressing room to change their clothes. Naturally, there cannot be the proper maid service and hostesses that are necessary for such a situation. The Union Building provides these.