

January 7, 1944.

Chancellor Deane W. Malott,
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Malott:

You instructed me not to write a long, three-page letter before Christmas. I have followed your instructions carefully, but since this is the New Year I am anxious to discuss the different angles of the basketball schedule, which you thought was entirely too lengthy, studded with too many games. I desire to set forth some of the reasons that I had in making this schedule.

It is interesting how a fellow will continue to be a demon for punishment year after year. We just go along in the old rut until someone awakens us and makes us realize what a pest we have been. For eighteen years, while I was Director of Athletics, I of course arranged the basketball schedule. When Mr. Gwinn Henry came in as Director he said he knew nothing about the basketball schedule or the manner of making one, and for me to continue. Naturally, when Mr. Klooz was named Director of Athletics, I erroneously assumed, and perhaps he did, that I would continue to make the schedule, which I did.

The making of a basketball schedule is a Herculean task. Until you objected to the schedule I did not realize that I was the fellow not to make the schedule. But frankly, I do not want to make the schedules in the future because that is not the job of the coach. And too, I will be very happy to agree to a heavy curtailment of the schedule, and not play the great number of service teams that we have been playing. You will notice that there are but fifteen college games on the schedule, counting conference and non-conference games.

I can readily see how much very severe war-time travel will be saved by cutting out a lot of these games. Therefore, I will be enthusiastic about keeping within our allowed eighteen games for the season.

Among my incentives in scheduling these games was the matter of making money. "Money makes the mare go." I realized that we would not have the \$2600 profit from the New York trip and that we would not have the \$1600 profit from the Great Lakes games in Kansas City. That makes \$4200 less for this year right off the bat, and I set about trying to recoup some of these deficits that would naturally be faced on account of losing these plums. I had in mind that more games would produce more money for the season ticket, and the price of the season ticket was raised from \$6.50 to \$7.00.

I also had in mind that the service teams could be had cheaply, and since each outfit would pay their own expenses and the locations were close, that additional revenue could be had.

In addition, I thought of the restriction in travel. Our alumni could not come in but we could take our teams to the alumni in different towns. That accounted for the games with Washburn and Rockhurst. In each of these games the convenience of my schedule was not considered because we played the first games in Topeka and Kansas City, feeling we would draw more money in games away from home being the first played. The convenience of the schedule would normally dictate that we play those games at home first to get our seasoning for out-of-town games. But we did the reverse, and money was the object.

The conference permits the scheduling of "B" games, and many schools play them, but my conception was that "B" games would not draw at the gate and would be a source of expense. If we could list all of these games as varsity games then it would enable us to play more boys in what the boys consider top-flight, first team competition, and yet we would not put additional strain on any of the boys by using great numbers in each one of our additional games. This naturally develops better morale among the entire squad.

Now, a word regarding the strenuousness of these games. Tests have been made over the years on basketball players by putting a watch on each individual member. Any time a player moves out of a walk he is counted "in action". Through the years it has been found that the most total elapsed time for any player during a basketball game is 12 minutes, but the average is 10 minutes. The minimal time is 8 minutes. This is counted on a 40-minute playing period for each game.

I have just run over Bob's actual playing time. We keep track of all the boys every minute that they are in the game. In six games Bob has played 66.5 minutes. This would make an average of 11.08 minutes per game. Figuring on the basis of a boy being in action only 10 minutes out of 40, Bob would actually have been in action one-fourth of this time, or 2.77 minutes.

It takes five minutes for a boy to run a mile when he is stepping it off in good time. When it is considered that there are breaks and lulls in a basketball game, you can actually see that there is not continuous strain on any one of the boys. And too, boys have been taken out of combat training where the government has seen fit to educate them. The boys are of combat age, yet they are drafting fathers at the present time. The stress now is on strenuous physical conditioning, calisthenics, obstacle course and mock warfare. These boys in training at these camps are strenuously living under the toughest climatic conditions. So, in the war-time period for our civilian or Navy athletes I would say that they are having an athletic joy-ride. Sometimes I feel that we are not strenuous enough with our boys in the college halls who are out for competitive athletics. Surely, they have

to study, but I thought that when we scheduled 12 of our 14 games on Friday and Saturday nights that we were merely competing with the juke boxes and the jazz orchestras or maybe other places where the boys would be better off under athletic competition. Apparently the professors who objected to the basketball schedule did not look at the calendar.

I find that I have written you nearly three pages, but I do want to say that I have just seven more years of this job until I will gladly retire and cease to be a "Snuffy Smith", throwing a monkey wrench in the other fellow's machinery.

With sincere promises to cooperate to the best of my ability in all administrative matters and promising you further that it will be at least ten days until I do this again, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FOA:AH

January 22, 1944.

Chancellor Deane W. Malott,
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Malott:

There was only one other important thing, in addition to the war bond request, that perhaps does need your attention.

I have a notation in my file to the effect that you took all the bids on the swimming pool quite some time ago. You stated you wanted to present them to the Board and the Board was meeting the next day.

I have inquiries from the men who bid, wondering what action was taken, if any.

Ray Kanehl mentioned that at a meeting with you, you inquired of him what we had done about the swimming pool.

I promise to reduce my correspondence from a bushel to a pint hereafter. Old age, perhaps, will account for this.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

January 17, 1944

Dr. F. C. Allen
108 Robinson
Campus

Dear Phog:

I have about a bushel of assorted correspondence from you to answer, the most important of which probably is the war bond request which I shall give early attention to.

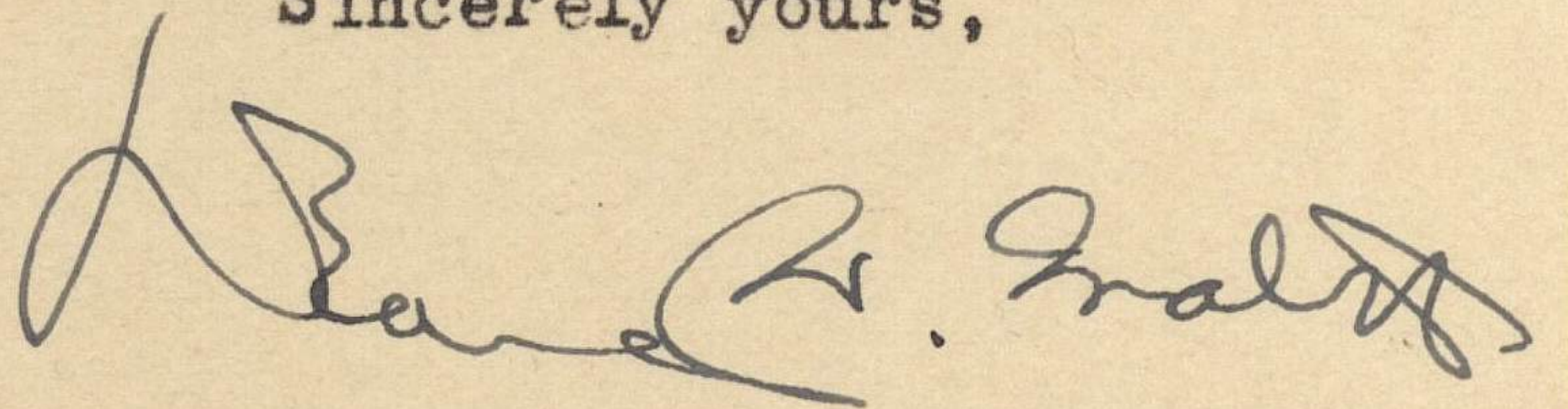
I am sorry I missed the jaunt to the Nursery School. I should like to see the improvements and maybe you and I can go down there another time. I should like to go with you.

The garage floor ought not to be a matter of major consequence and I shall talk to Mr. Bayles about it.

In regard to the basketball scheduling, I did not mean to imply that you should not arrange the schedule. Under the circumstances this year with an Acting Director of Athletics who has other full time occupation you could not have done otherwise. When we get a new Director it will then of course be up to him to decide how he wants the schedule handled.

I appreciate all the information in your letter on that subject.

Sincerely yours,



Deane W. Malott
Chancellor

DWM:h

December 16, 1944.

Chancellor Deane W. Malott,
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Malott:

I had pledged no long letters, but your communication of December 12th prompts one. Certainly the newspaper discussions of our internal problems did not emanate from this source. In fact, after it erupted, I inhibited it from every possible angle.

The long series of unpleasanties regarding our connection with the auditorium floor stands out in bas relief.

I am cognizant of the fact that by Tuesday night we will have played two games on the auditorium floor, one with Washburn and one with Rockhurst, and we have an entirely new team. Not a single man in the Kansas lineup in the Washburn game had ever shot at a goal on the Auditorium floor before the Washburn game. And after Tuesday night's game we will have had but one practice session there. Yet it was necessary to reserve the auditorium floor from Wednesday on for the University Vespers. Fine Arts artists must practice to get their orientation, but basketball players shall not.

I have never wanted to trespass on the floor and I do not now. I wish that we might move back to Robinson Gymnasium where our rights are not questioned.

Dean Swarthout and I have long been personal friends, as our families have. But in the professional life it has been drastically different. I remember once when Chancellor Lindley was walking out of Frank Strong Hall he said, "Isn't Swarthout a grand fellow?" I said, "Yes, Chancellor, if you give him everything he wants." I of course was speaking of him in a professional way.

I do not see what is to keep the Athletic Department of the University and the Fine Arts Department from buying a floor covering with fasteners which would protect the floor surface and at the same time would shut out the ugliness to artistic eyes. The floor has never heretofore been treated as a basketball floor. The seating for all concerts could be placed right over the canvas covering, and the only time the canvas covering would be withdrawn would be at the time that games were played there. The money which has only recently been expended would not be wasted. The floor covering in itself would pay for itself by way of protection. Of course, it is impossible to buy the canvas now,

but reconversions will shortly take place which will enable such a purchase and such a saving.

So long as we use this as a basketball floor I do not see why it should be done over, nor do I see why it should be used as a dance floor. The State Banker's Association were the first to use it as a dance floor because it was desirable to show the bankers every courtesy, even more than we have shown to anyone else. And after that one time the students got in, and because we had no one to protect basketball our boys slipped, fell and suffered, because other interests encroached.

We have not gone forward in basketball on account of the cooperation, but rather in spite of it. Certainly if Dean Swarthout had had the same discouragements as we have had he perhaps would appreciate our position.

I assure you I tried to put nothing over when permission was given to us to design the floor for a basketball court with color schemes and decorations.

Again, may I assure you that the initiative was not on our part - the thing that caused so much discussion and feeling on the part of a great many people.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

cc - D. H. Swarthout
E. C. Quigley
C. G. Bayles

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

December 12, 1944

Dr. F. C. Allen
107 Robinson Gym
Campus

My dear Dr. Allen:

I do not want to engage in, nor do I approve of, newspaper discussions of our internal problems, but now that the controversy has somewhat died down, I should like to make clear my own feelings in regard to the painted design on the auditorium floor.

The building does not belong to any one department but is used for basketball games, concerts, basketball practice, organ practice, organ lessons, lectures, convocations, occasional plays, vesper services -- a wide variety of uses.

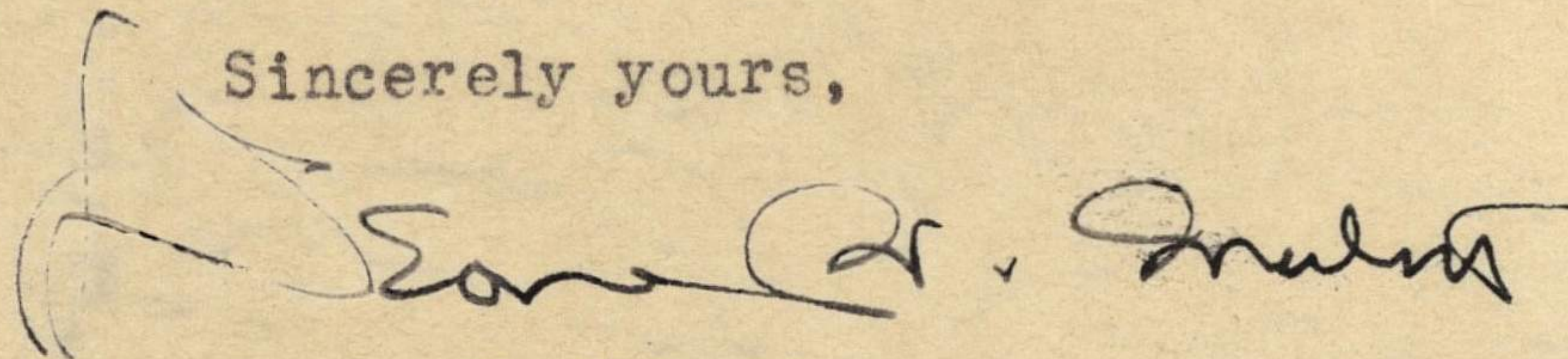
I do not feel therefore that in view of this wide variety of uses any one department should undertake to decorate the building without reference to or consultation with the others involved. It should be borne in mind that many of the vesper services and concerts are given in that building with all of the seats removed from that floor. This painted basketball court therefore becomes a conspicuous and unrelated part of the decoration of the building. I shall personally look forward to the day when the floor is again done over with the same design that it had in former years. Until then, I suggest the Buildings and Grounds Department see what carpet might be obtainable to cover the aisles for occasional concerts.

As a basketball floor, the painting is grand. The difficulty is that it is not a field house only, and I feel we should do as little as possible to mar the effectiveness of the building for all of its various purposes.

In the past it has been customary in getting buildings redecorated to confer with all those using the building and to use the Department of Design as consultant on color schemes and decoration. I think in so doing we are on the safest possible ground.

It is at least too bad to do anything which has caused so much discussion and feeling on the part of a great many people.

Sincerely yours,



Deane W. Malott
Chancellor

cc D. M. Swarthout
E. C. Quigley
C. G. Bayles

December 16, 1944.

Chancellor Deane W. Malett,
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Malett:

I had pledged no long letters, but your communication of December 12th prompts one. Certainly the newspaper discussions of our internal problems did not emanate from this source. In fact, after it erupted, I inhibited it from every possible angle.

The long series of unpleasantries regarding our connection with the auditorium floor stands out in bas relief.

I am cognizant of the fact that by Tuesday night we will have played two games on the auditorium floor, one with Washburn and one with Rockhurst, and we have an entirely new team. Not a single man in the Kansas lineup in the Washburn game had ever shot at a goal on the Auditorium floor before the Washburn game. And after Tuesday night's game we will have had but one practice session there. Yet it was necessary to reserve the auditorium floor from Wednesday on for the University Vespers. Fine Arts artists must practice to get their orientation, but basketball players shall not.

I have never wanted to trespass on the floor and I do not now. I wish that we might move back to Robinson Gymnasium where our rights are not questioned.

Dean Swarthout and I have long been personal friends, as our families have. But in the professional life it has been drastically different. I remember once when Chancellor Lindley was walking out of Frank Strong Hall he said, "Isn't Swarthout a grand fellow?" I said, "Yes, Chancellor, if you give him everything he wants." I of course was speaking of him in a professional way.

I do not see what is to keep the Athletic Department of the University and the Fine Arts Department from buying a floor covering with fasteners which would protect the floor surface and at the same time would shut out the ugliness to artistic eyes. The floor has never heretofore been treated as a basketball floor. The seating for all concerts could be placed right over the canvas covering, and the only time the canvas covering would be withdrawn would be at the time that games were played there. The money which has only recently been expanded would not be wasted. The floor covering in itself would pay for itself by way of protection. Of course, it is impossible to buy the canvas now,

but reconversions will shortly take place which will enable such a purchase and such a saving.

So long as we use this as a basketball floor I do not see why it should be done over, nor do I see why it should be used as a dance floor. The State Banker's Association were the first to use it as a dance floor because it was desirable to show the bankers every courtesy, even more than we have shown to anyone else. And after that one time the students got in, and because we had no one to protect basketball our boys slipped, fell and suffered, because other interests encroached.

We have not gone forward in basketball on account of the cooperation, but rather in spite of it. Certainly if Dean Swarthout had had the same discouragements as we have had he perhaps would appreciate our position.

I assure you I tried to put nothing over when permission was given to us to design the floor for a basketball court with color schemes and decorations.

Again, may I assure you that the initiative was not on our part - the thing that caused so much discussion and feeling on the part of a great many people.

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Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

cc - D.M. Swarthout
R.C. Quigley
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