

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seating for all concerts could be placed right over the canvas covering, and the only time the canvas covering would be withdrawn would be at the time that games were played there.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,