

January 14, 1942

Mr. Raymond Nichols,
Chairman, Convocations Committee
University of Kansas.

Dear Raymond:

The publicity that came out of the pep rally of the convocation hour which was held on Tuesday, January 6, is typical of nearly all publicity that chronicles an event.

When I was presented to the students by Roy Edwards, the head cheerleader, my opening statement was that the present, with its unpredictable turns and changes, is altering the whole course of our lives, the jobs we work at, the town and the University which we live in, the clothes we wear and the food that we eat. I made the statement that vital changes are taking place in all of our personal lives, our living and our jobs; that back of all the fronts—military, industrial and administrative, is the home front, just as important as all of the rest.

I stated that Chancellor Malott recognizes the necessity of a "physical fitness" program for the students of the University of Kansas as an aid to defense, and that the Chancellor, who is a lover of sports and recreation, was foremost in the crusade to provide a new skating rink on the intramural field and setting things in order that we might have skiing if and when it snows enough. I told them that Messrs Jensen and Anderson, two young professors who had their skiing in Norway and Austria, would be the faculty skiing advisors and they would aid in stimulating this very healthful outdoor activity. I further elaborated upon the lights that were to be used at the skating rink and the logs that we would have for bonfires so that the students might enjoy this activity to the fullest extent. I said, "It is free for the asking," and I got a big hand, showing that the students appreciated an activity for their benefit.

Then, my number two subject was Dr. Naismith and basketball. I told of Frederick Froebel, the poor, unhappy German boy wandering from a broken home of unhappiness to the Black Forest of Germany, and how out of these meanderings, musings and wanderings came the theory of the kindergarten—education through play. Then I mentioned the orphan boy from Altmont, Canada, raised by an old uncle, Peter Naismith. Young James Naismith, a woodsman and an outdoor man, studied