

August 19, 1943.

Confidential

Memo to Chancellor Malott:

I am writing this to you for your general information only.

Yesterday morning at 11:45 Rev. Charles Thomas called me and inquired as to whether those boys down at the stadium were some of "my boys". I told him I thought they did not belong to the group we supervised. He said their language was full of indescribable vulgarity, obscenity and profanity. He said that the words were being carried audibly to all the residents along Mississippi Street and the children were absorbing much of it. I told him that I would take steps to control it if possible.

I called Chief Yeoman Starkey and he doubted whether they were his boys or not. I said, "Well, there is one way of finding out. I'll go down and see." I got in the car and found they were Machinists Mates, and it was the officer in charge who was the offender. Reverend Thomas pointed him out. He said he was not sure but he felt quite certain that he was the fellow.

I came back and called Chief Starkey and told him that while I would not describe any of the men to him, it definitely was one of his men. He thanked me and said he would call me back. At 2:30 yesterday afternoon he called me and stated that he appreciated the way we handled it and he assured me it would not happen again.

I want to tell you how efficiently one of our men, Mr. Howard Porter, handled the A-12 boys. It started the first day with Porter's squad. Porter told me that he said, "Now, fellows, we are not exactly running a Y.M.C.A., but we can get along without that kind of language very nicely." He said there has been no recurrence of it in his group. I was especially pleased to see him take the initiative, and I knew that you would want to know the good points of the men as they progress. Porter was the young man who was in your office with me when he was undecided as to whether he would accept the job or not. He is making a fine record and I have made him chairman of the Army group of Vernon Hayes, Elmer Schaake and Jack Austin.

Some day soon I would like to bring the new boys over so that you may give them a little greeting.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH