

February 12, 1941

Chancellor Deane W. Malott
Frank Strong Hall
University of Kansas

Dear Chancellor Malott:

Really this letter is not of much importance, but it is a desire on my part to explain why there was a slight mix-up prior to Professor Joe Wilkins' Glee Club singing the Star Spangled Banner during the flag-raising at the Kansas-Nebraska Basketball Game.

When I came here in 1920, I believed that dramatizing events and using spectacular display at our basketball games was about as important as the game itself. There is a fifteen minute intermission between halves; and we, realizing that the public desired fine entertainment, have always utilized this time to the best advantage. Fifteen minutes is a long time to sit. Some diversion away from the strenuous game of basketball is always welcome.

The arranging of these entertainments has always been in my hands. When I delegated it to others they would just put in a hit and miss affair which did not satisfy. I realized that perhaps many people come to football and basketball games to enjoy the entertainment as well as the game.

We have put on a variety of entertainment: community singing; exhibitions by the Women's Physical Education Department; Men's Physical Education display; exhibitions of square dances, with the small village caller; girls' fancy bicycle riding, etc. We try to get away from too much of the physical element of heavy athletic work and display the aesthetic and finer arts of physical education.

These between-halves exhibitions are something like the Orpheum bills; sometimes pretty good and sometimes terrible. But we constantly endeavor to improve them. I have never seen any of these exhibitions. I am always in the dressing room with the team. I plan the programs and take the word of the people who do see them.

If Professor Wilkins could have his Glee Club sing at each flag-raising, it would add tremendously. Naturally, I do not know how it impresses the individual members of the audience. Ever since this patriotic demonstration was inaugurated, this lights-out, spot-light on the flag with the flag-raising and the Star Spangled Banner, it has always put me in my place nationally with true reverence for the importance of things in the U.S.A. In this panorama of impressive memory, the game itself takes its true place of secondary importance.

We have been putting on between-halves entertainment for over twenty years and we find that the people like it. The first time you saw Professor Joe Wilkins with his Glee Club at the Missouri game, I asked him to do this, but I did not want to presume upon his time by asking for a second or a third similar