

November 30, 1940

Major John L. Griffith  
Commissioner of Athletics  
Hotel Sherman  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Major Griffith:

I have been doing a great deal of thinking since I have returned from Chicago where you were very kind to me in having me as your guest at the Wailing Wall dinner, and also giving me audience which took from your busy administrative life many valuable moments.

When we had our conference regarding the income and disbursement of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball fund, you asked me this question: "Do you think all the boys will be satisfied with this distribution?" It would have been a long story and your time was too valuable at that moment for the explanation. However, I am writing you this letter in the hope that you can take it home where you can prop your feet up, rest in an easy chair, and read it, or part of it, and if it becomes too fatiguing or uninteresting, just drop it in the waste basket to your right.

May I give you a little history. In the beginning Harold Olsen and John Bunn and I had many conferences. First, we were desirous of seeing that the N. C. A. A. had the finest and the best basketball teams under the finest, cleanest and most efficient auspices that would be possible. Frankly, the money consideration was not the primal consideration. Of course, we wanted to make money, but we did not want the promoters to take the ball away from us regarding our own collegiate attraction. We felt as if the colleges were the ones making the money and the control naturally should be under college administration. Knowing that the N. C. A. A. had always stood for this sort of administration, we were happy indeed to work definitely upon these lines.

After the first N. C. A. A. basketball tournament had lost \$2500 at San Francisco, Philadelphia and Chicago and your executive committee underwrote the loss, we felt responsibilities. It was up to all of us to not only replace that money, but to return a sizable sum in order to show the committee that we were appreciative as well as determined to reciprocate the confidence of the executive committee.

I said, "You give me this tournament in Kansas City and I will not only pay back the deficit, but we will make you some money." We then started definitely upon an aggressive program of retrenchment. First, we worked with the National Coaches Association to the point that one dollar out of each membership should go for a ticket at the final tournament. Inasmuch as each coach paid \$5.00, it was our feeling that \$1.00 going toward a \$1.60 ticket of admission would be a gesture that the coaches also wanted this thing to succeed. Secondly, I made a deal with the Municipal