

COPY

April 25, 1940

Mr. John Bunn,  
Dean of Men,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear John:

We are still paying bills and settling up loose ends of accounts in connection with the Kansas City tournament, and I have been so crowded for time that I have been unable to write you sooner.

A couple of weeks ago I sent Ole a check for \$5,000, and while he was here I gave him a check for \$250. So that makes a total of \$5,250 to Olsen. My idea was that we should give the N.C.A.A. perhaps \$7,500. You will recall, Johnny, that Ole told you that this money could be earmarked for basketball. When President Bill Owens came to Kansas City, together with Mr. May of Washington, we were told that this money could not be earmarked for basketball. Ole said, "Well, that is news to me."

You remember right after the Olympics the N.C.A.A. committee had an agreement with the A.A.U. wherein they agreed that if the A.A.U. would permit them to have the college coaches for track and field, crew, swimming and wrestling, the A.A.U. would have the coaches of the other sports. That means that they sold basketball down the river just after we got in the Olympic Games, and of course this was done to benefit the N.C.A.A. in these four above-mentioned sports. Now, when basketball comes along and makes some money, and plenty of it, the officers state that this money cannot be earmarked for basketball.

President Owens let it be known that the N.C.A.A. expected to take all the profit and that it was rather an unusual request to think that the colleges would get any of the money. I stood up and battled it up one side and down the other. Naturally Ole in his position, could not do much. Edmundson, St. Clair, Olsen, May, Owens and I were in the conference. Of course, I drew some fire.

Now we are in a bad spot because the N.C.A.A. wants all of the money. President Owens especially said that we have Ned Irish whipped, and I said, "You just think you have got him whipped, because most of the college coaches in the country would resent the N.C.A.A. taking the money and letting the boys and the athletic associations of the schools interested play for expenses alone." When we agreed that the N.C.A.A. get 20% of these tournaments we were just giving the N.C.A.A. something to start on. In my mind, the competing teams should certainly get a part of it.

Confidentially, I told President Owens that I would go to Madison Square Garden where we could get the most money. And that is exactly why I am going to the Garden. I wanted you to know about this, and I would like for you to write me in confidence what your reactions are.

I thought that in the eastern division play-off they should take their money and cut it four ways for the four competing teams, and in our western play-off we should divide the profits four ways among the competing teams, after deducting a sizeable sum for the N.C.A.A., and then for the final play-off we could still have a larger cut for the two competing teams, with the N.C.A.A. getting their cut. What Ole proposed was to take the ten teams, the four eastern and the four western, and the two finalists, and give the N.C.A.A. quite a sum and then cut the remainder ten ways. Frankly, I