

October 4, 1945

Dean J. W. Twente
103 F.

Dear Dr. Twente:

I genuinely thank you for your fine letter concerning the treatment of physical education with University High School.

I assure you that at all times I will cooperate to the fullest extent in giving every opportunity that we can offer, consistent with our congested program, to your very necessary problem over there.

I want to make a report on the city council's attitude toward University High School's using the gym at the Community Building. Last night the entire city council met at the City Hall for the purpose of discussing unofficially the problems confronting us in erecting a suitable war memorial, and also building a much-needed fire and police building. After adjournment, I addressed the entire council including the committee members that were to study the problem for University High, and stressed the fact that these committee members by voting to permit these students to use the gym would be doing education in Lawrence a real service. I appealed to them to make the estimated cost as low as possible to include the kilowatt hours of electricity used and the cost of water used for showers. I expressed the hope that the upkeep and the cost of polishing and cleaning the floor be, so far as possible, charged to the building maintenance cost paid by the city. In other words, I stressed the fact that these students are children of citizens of Lawrence who are taxpayers. Since the city pays a great deal of the expense of education in the Lawrence Public Schools, they would be doing exactly this for the group of children who are receiving education at University High School.

The council looked upon this in a very friendly way. They did express a fear, however, that there might be a danger of the boys coming down and at times being left alone without supervision. In this way, they feared possible damage to property of the building, and naturally, they, being responsible, expressed the hope that no Oread boy would ever be left alone in the building without supervision. I assured them that Mr. Strait who had had excellent training in physical education before coming to us was supervisor of physical education activities of the Chanute Public School, and was very cognizant of the necessity of keeping youngsters under supervision at all times. I assured them that they need have no fear of Mr. Strait's leaving them in the building for one moment without supervision.

The committee reporting on this, including Messrs. Burgert, Selig, Eustace and Russell, were present, and if I can diagnose clearly, I believe they will make a very favorable report. Mr. Harold Fisher, city clerk who was formerly county superintendent of Douglas County, also had questions to ask and discuss, but I assure you they were friendly ones.