

February 15, 1945.

Mr. Grantland Rice,
North American Newspaper Alliance,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rice:

I have had the pleasure of meeting you in person when Mrs. Allen and I walked into your New York offices several years ago when you were editing the Golfing Magazine, among your other multitudinous duties. I have also had the pleasure of meeting you with Clyde McBride back at the Louis-Baer fight, and upon a couple of other occasions.

I do want you to know how genuinely I appreciate your article in which you suggest me as basketball commissioner. However, I have never felt that we should have a czar for college basketball. I have always felt that we should have a high commissioner for all collegiate sports and that basketball would be only one of those things that needs the protection and the guiding influence of a highly intelligent and forceful administration. I have felt that they needed a much stronger man than I am for the job. This man, in my opinion, should be a Supreme Court justice, a Douglas MacArthur, a J. Edgar Hoover, or a Tom Dewey. To me, he would be ideal for the position because he is the only man that I know of who has busted rackets.

I am not thinking of a prosecutor as the first consideration for this man. I am thinking of a man with college ideals and at the same time a man with the love of the game in his heart, - the real benefit of education through play as it fits into the scheme of education. This man should be a lawyer because he should be able to write both State and Federal statutes so they would have the laws to prosecute aggressively the gangsters and tinhorn gamblers who endeavor to chisel in all college sports.

Proselyting, subsidizing (clandestinely), and overt professionalism in college athletics should be the first prime consideration. I have written enough for you to see my thought in guiding this position to the very highest and most able man in the land. The position should pay from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars a year and the pay would come from the colleges according to their student population.

Naturally, it is the job of the presidents of the colleges and universities to initiate this. And instead of divorcing this job from the colleges, it would be an integral part and plan because the college presidents would select the man. He would be responsible to them but not be hampered in his administration in any way.