

I have been quoted as saying that a basketball czar was the thing. I haven't been interested in a basketball czar. I have only been interested in having some outstanding jurist of national reputation and standing, even nominated by the President, head up such an organization as a national collegiate czar. He necessarily would have to be a lawyer because only a man with legal training and experience could set up a workable program with the necessary rules and regulations. He of course would have to be a college-bred man to know the athletic traditions of the colleges of our land. His powers would be absolute.

I am also sending you an article by Lawton Carver, the International News Service sports writer. His first statement that I had "backed down" led me to send him the wire, a copy of which I am enclosing. His INS release of October 25th was printed in the San Francisco paper, but Jack Carberry of the Denver Post says it was withdrawn by his service.

These fellows who get cuts from the game naturally flay someone who comes out in the open and shows the public what is going on. This Invitation Tournament that is handled by Ned Irish first started as a Sport Writers Invitation Tournament. These sport writers naturally got their cut because they promoted the tournament. And then when it was so obvious as to what was being done they changed it to the Invitation Tournament, and Irish handled it. Irish always has the newspapers boys at Toots Shor's restaurant with every income game attraction to mingle with the coaches and to get stories. These stories are, of course, legitimate. The boys write feature stories and get three to five hundred dollars for their article, which is o.k., but the fact that the newspaper men figure in the out of the gate receipts on these Invitation Tournaments is still questionable because no reform can ever take place when the boys are protecting their own situation.

However, if we had a national czar with the character and power that Judge Landis exercises in professional baseball, he would correct things in a reasonably short while, and at the same time he would lift the odious burden from the college presidents who now have a stinker on their hands. He might even deny college teams playing in the Irish circuit or similar circuits until the difficulty was eradicated. I have been told by reliable authorities that Mr. Irish's most profitable and consistent customers are the boys who make wagering their business. Mr. McFarland re-emphasizes this in his letter. He also states if the Garden management were to rely on lovers and followers of basketball they would average only about eight thousand people a game, whereas now they average close to fifteen thousand.