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600 City Bank Bldg.

Dr. Forrest C. Allen,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kan.

Dear Phog:

I join you in the "shudders" you had at those clippings. And I would like to say that I'm mighty glad we worked out several pieces together last winter which were on the nose, as far as you were concerned. You see, I knocked out that copy during the winter myself. This last yarn was rewritten back east.

I'm not one to sidestep blame when it rests on me. And at the same time, Phog, I don't accept it altogether when it rests someplace else. That's always been my philosophy and it works out fine, I've found, when folks know you mean what you say.

I shipped the copy I wrote here back to New York because it came in about the time the World Series and opening big-time football games were crowding the docket. We hoped to squeeze it in better that way and get a better start with it. I shivered at that "self-styled" usage in the lead and read no further, knowing that the piece had been altered and knowing also that nothing then could be done about it.

I am forwarding your letter back to New York. But I wanted you to know the score from this angle. I also wanted to thank you for your consideration in preparing that long letter. From here on out, Phog, we'll hold anything you fix up here in Kansas City and start it on its way from here. Then, if anything is wrong, I'll stand squarely behind it.

I'm sorry this happened and I hope the above clears my shirt. Above all, please don't look at it with the thought "alibi" in your mind. I used all of your stuff about the college prexies and I think that, too, was dropped out back east. I'm only sorry I didn't make a copy of my original so you could have it for comparison purposes.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Sam

Sam Smith