

COPY

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HOME STATE BANK

COPY

Erie, Kansas
December 13, 1940

Mr. Wm. M. Gray
Chanute, Kansas

My dear Bill:

I have been reading the newspaper reports of your controversy with Phog Allen with great chagrin.

Phog has done so much for K.U. and you have done so little that it ill behooves you to stir up dirt.

Haven't the newspapermen done Ralph Miller enough by putting him up on a pinnacle of publicity, to become a marked man, and had he been permitted to have quietly gone and fought his way from the bottom up, in place of from the top down, he personally and K.U. generally would have written a different story.

Now why persecute Ralph further? It would seem this would have been a wonderful time for you to have pondered over the old adage that "Silence is Golden."

As I recall you were the original man of the campaign to send Ralph Miller to K.U., and you told me you were sitting by the phone when I was solicited to contribute to such a fund. Phog Allen had nothing to do with it, nor did the University. I made my checks payable to you personally, and they were so endorsed and no other endorser except the collecting banks. As near as I can figure I contributed about 35% of the fund. Further, being the only Democrat in the "association", it devolved upon me to fight, bleed and die with my political friends to get him, a Republican family, a job with the Highway to offset his offers with Chicago, Louisiana and California. I sacrificed several political friendships but got the job done, on the theory that I was loyal to my Alma Mater.

Now for you to start something that is so unnecessary, and can accomplish no good plus lots of muck, seems to me to be a base betrayal of the friends that helped you at that time, helped you with their time, their energy and their money.

The dinner party at your house, to which you were kind enough to invite me, and which I enjoyed, seemed to me to be rather a rushing party than one under the auspices of the Athletic Department of the University of Kansas. Every adult present, except yourself, was a member of the one fraternity, and later Ralph joined that fraternity.

Really it seems to me that the very nice thing for you to do, out of respect for the friends who stood by you when you wanted them to, would be to just drop the whole matter.

Phog Allen is the outstanding Basket Ball Coach in the country and K.U. is very fortunate to keep him.