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June 1, 1943.

Mr. Bill Cunningham,
Sports Editor,
The Boston Herald,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Bill:

Several of my friends over the country have mailed me your sports column as of Monday, May 24. I am sending you a copy of a speech that I delivered at the football banquet of the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941. Speaking upon trends at that time, I could see that we were getting deeper in the mire on subsidized and proselyted athletic teams, especially football and basketball.

Having coached football for a number of years and observed it for many more, I can see that the non-subsidized team has about as much chance against an opponent as Poland had against Hitler's panzer divisions.

I certainly want to agree with you that there would be no chance whatsoever to get all conferences in the United States under such a scheme as I propose. However, I looked at this situation from this angle - that since the lawyers had partly purged their profession of mal-practice through disbarment proceedings by their own members, and the medical profession had endeavored to raise their standard, I was hoping that enough leaders of the coaching profession would point to a way of better conditions in athletic participation. I realize that we will have no Utopia, and as stated before, I know that we cannot all get together under one banner because there are many more than two schools of thought on the best process of working this thing out.

My notion was that nobody would be forced into anything - that it would be purely a voluntary matter on the part of these schools entering such a scheme. I further thought that educators should welcome a plan that would make the whole matter more wholesome and that they would still be able to realize the positive value of education through play. I am quite sure that we could not change all bad situations, but we could improve them, undoubtedly. One big improvement would be that we could get the public to accept intercollegiate athletic practice as something other than chicanery which, in my opinion, a large part of the sporting public holds it to be.