

12
May 1, 1943.

Mr. Bus Ham,
Associated Press,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bus:

You asked me for some data on the post-war planning concerning intercollegiate athletics. I told you that I had seen several years ahead when I made this speech at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in the fall of 1941. You will notice that I set up a scheme for a national czar of intercollegiate athletics. This would mean that this czar would have the same powers as Judge Landis, and my idea is that he would not be a commissioner or an athletic director, or anyone now connected with intercollegiate athletics. He would come entirely from the outside of any administrative work so that he would have no background or impediments or encumbrances.

He should be a lawyer, and preferably a judge who has already established himself for fearlessness in rendering decisions. He might be a dean of a law college, but he should have a national reputation for fairness and justice.

The income should of necessity be lucrative, say at least \$50,000 a year. The conferences of the nation could pay this fee without any difficulty.

He, of course, would have commissioners of each conference under him and they would be subject entirely to his decisions. He would have the power to dismiss any athletic director or coach, or to declare any athlete ineligible for further participation. He would also set up the scholarship or stipend that each athlete could receive because different areas have different agreements for their conferences. Yet he would correlate all of these so that they would be compatible with each other. After this agreement of income was set up no athlete could receive any income from any source unless it came through the university channels. This would stop these secret subsidizations that have always caused so much trouble of one outfit raising the ante on the other.

This high commissioner would have the power to suspend an institution if they did not conform to the rulings. The reason that I say this man should be a lawyer is because it would be absolutely necessary for him to set up just laws and exact just findings in case of a fracture of the rulings.