

E. *

June 1, 1943.

Mr. James H. Hammond, Lawyer,
6 Security Federal Building,
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Acknowledging your favor of the 25th ultimo, I am sending you a copy of a speech I made at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in November, 1941, at the Southeast Missouri State Teachers College.

Lawyers have had their disbarment proceedings for erring lawyers; the doctors have done likewise. I doubt if athletic coaches will become enough interested in their profession to accomplish such measures as the lawyers and physicians have accomplished. However, I do know that there are many athletic directors and coaches that would like to see a cleaner bill of health for athletics. Those on the inside know that a football team that is four-deep with powerful material is not accomplished by the matriculation of the ordinary student in such and such a college.

Different conferences have different practices. I realize that it would be a very difficult thing to get all the colleges in America to have uniform rules, but I did think that there were enough educators who would welcome a more wholesome participation in athletics in the colleges. The great value of education through play can be accomplished by doing away with hyper-proselyting that seems to have been in practice in the most emphatic degree just prior to our entry in the war.

I think I am safe in saying that no "big time" school in athletics is without its subsidizing and proselyting.

Judge Landis has done such a wonderful job in building the confidence of the public in organized baseball. This was accomplished after baseball had sunk to the lowest after the Black Sox scandal. I have a notion that some such measure should accomplish the thing for college athletics if the American Association of University and College Presidents should act on some scheme that would take the disciplining out of their hands and place it in a tribunal who would be above criticism and suspicion.

My notion was that this organization would be one of voluntary membership. No college or organization would be forced into it, but if conferences now organized, which are faculty controlled, should have a czar who would handle the matter as Judge Landis has handled organized baseball, then most of our proselyting and subsidizing would end because