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March 24, 1943

Mr. Arthur F. Hughes,
St. Joseph News-Press
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Art:

Thanks for sending me the clipping in the Gene Sullivan's Wise Owl column, I appreciate all the nice things Gene had to say about me, but this is once where he is as substantially correct as a fellow I heard about in describing to his friend the fact that John Doe, his friend, made a hundred thousand dollars in one year in a shirtwaist factory in Baltimore, Maryland,

He said, "Isn't that right, Bill?" "Well, " Bill said, "That is substantially correct. Instead of Baltimore, Maryland, it was Kansas City, and instead of a shirtwaist factory it was an overall factory, and instead of making a hundred thousand dollars the first year he lost a hundred thousand dollars the first year."

I can just tell you on the record and off the record that I never have been as happy as during the past seven years when I have had nothing to do with the administration of athletics here at the University of Kansas.

You have heard about the fellow that met Bill Jones going down town, and he said, "I think I should tell you, Bill, that I just came through your neighborhood and I saw a big, striped, Bengal tiger jump in the kitchen window of your house. I thought maybe you would want to hurry out there and protect your wife."

Bill said, "Now, listen. That tiger got in there and he can just get out the best way he can."

That is the way with me. I got in there once and I am out, and I am not getting back. Some people really feel that a fellow would jump into a job like that if it were offered him. Well, I am not one of those fellows that cares for as much grief as that type of job can muster.

In the fall of 1920 I coached the football team with not one penny of additional salary. In December, 1919, I took over basketball with no increase in salary. In 1921 I started the building of the stadium, and in 1923 I founded the Kansas Relays. My basketball teams have been fairly successful, yet when I was endeavoring to build up a football team because the basketball team was winning many of my pseudo-friends were declaring that I cared nothing for football. Well, after having done all those things I have arrived at an age that convinces me it isn't worth a candle and I wouldn't take the job at twice the salary.

You are dealing with an emotional, slap-happy, crackpot bunch of fanatics who know all about winning football games. So not for my peace of mind or any money that anyone might gather up in an endeavor to tempt me. It just wouldn't work.

So thank Gene for his kind words, but these are not idle statements. They are facts. Very cordially yours,