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April 30, 1943.

Mr. E. S. Hickey,
Basketball Coach,
Creighton University,
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Eddie:

First, I want to congratulate you on your enlisting in your country's service. I wish that I were young enough so that Uncle Sam would think me worthy of doing the very thing that you are doing. Good luck to you in every way.

Regarding my exception that I might have taken to your statement, it was the part where you said "the N.C.A.A. Committee was listening to Allen and leaving us out in the dark." I think your letter was unfortunately phrased. The N.C.A.A. has never listened to me in the last few years, nor have I listened to them.

In one of your enclosed letters you state that "Allen stated he would not compete this year", which was correct. I made identically the same statement last year and did not want to compete, but the N.C.A.A. officials importuned our higher officials here, and also, the members of our team desired to play. That put me in a very embarrassing position of being against everybody, and I naturally could not take that position. I cared nothing for the N.C.A.A. the way they were running the tournament, and so flatly stated.

So I want you to know that the only reason that I can ascribe to their picking Kansas was the fact that they thought we would draw them a better crowd in Kansas City than Creighton would. They had as a basis of their reasoning the Iowa State - Creighton game the year before, and this is mere conjecture on my part, but I believe rather sound logic.

Now, another reason why I think they eliminated Creighton was that Kansas had defeated Creighton one game just as you defeated us two games this year.

I am honest in saying that in my opinion Dr. King and some of the other members of the committee would have picked Creighton this year over Kansas if you had defeated us but one game. The Big Six has a reasoning, whether faulty or not, that if any one team defeats the other regardless of location, that the defeated team is out. They even go further than that. If teams are tied for the championship they settle on the team having the better offensive-defensive ratio, as was done when Iowa State played and as was done last year when we played in place of