

A

November 17, 1937.

Rev. W. Hilst,
Preston, Kansas.

Dear Reverend Hilst:

I am very happy to have your letter of the 16th instant, and assure you that I will be glad to call Harold in and have a talk with him.

I might explain certain things that are perhaps in his mental background causing him to give up varsity basketball for intramural basketball. The Triangle Fraternity has a strong team in intramurals and doubtless the fraternity is asking him to go in for intramurals rather than for the varsity.

My approach to him would be, of course, to talk with him about coming out, but we never urge the boys to do so, placing it squarely up to their own desires. It is entirely a voluntary matter. You can see our position if we used undue pressure or persuasion. They would feel that they were perhaps doing something for the coach or for the University, if pressure were put upon them. Varsity athletics should be a pleasure and should have a side that is stimulating in play.

I am sure you will agree with me, Reverend Hilst, that the most difficult man to teach is the fellow that you have to persuade to play. There will, of course, be discouraging moments. There will be times when a boy is either mentally or physically ill, when he feels that someone else is being given a greater opportunity than he is, and it takes all the courage surging up in a man's breast to keep him going through discouragement. However, in the long run, this is good for them. I only mention these things to describe a cycle that has been in the life of each one of us, and doubtless it has recurred to him many times.

I will call him in, but you can see that I am in rather a bad position to go beyond the point of having a friendly chat with him and asking if he is interested in varsity basketball. We have issued the call and of course he has not responded. On your account we will do this extra thing, but it is not done in