

February 2, 1940.

Mrs. E. P. Bozeman,
Nickerson, Kansas.

Dear Mrs. Bozeman:

I was delighted at your lovely letter which I received in this morning's mail. I have always been especially fond of Earl and I thought at the early beginning of school that he was indulging in too many sports. He came out for football and he seemed to think he had to practice every day.

I talked to his Geology supervisor, the professor that he works for under the CSEP stipend, and he said, "This boy is just working too hard. He has got to give something up." I called Earl in and said, "Earl, you carrying too heavy a load; you're going to flunk."

With a quick and a direct glance at me, he said, "I never have," in a tone that made me admire him very much.

It is such leadership that we discover in boys such as Earl that causes us to keep a very close watch on them for fear their great ambitions will cause them to overdo. A dozen times during the school year I have asked him how he was getting along, and he always said "All right". If he had only come to me and told me his problem, of course I would have given him extra work because I saw in this boy great possibilities of leadership.

Mrs. Bozeman, it is not the idea of his athletic ability that causes us to do things for a boy like Earl, but it is on account of his possibilities for the future. We do have rules that we enforce in a general way to the effect that when a boy is failing in his academic work we will not give him additional work that distracts from his studying. But there are exceptions to all rules, and rules are made not to be broken but to be observed by the general rank and file of people. When we find an exceptional case we treat it in an exceptional way. And I think Earl is an exceptional boy. I am not saying this to you because you are his mother, but in all of his work around the department every one of the individuals who have come in contact with Earl have evaluated him very highly.