

Anchorage, Kentucky
September 2, 1940

Mr. Ralph Miller
Kansas Highway Dept.
Topeka, Kansas

My dear Ralph:

I received your very frank letter and I assure you that I believe you wrote me from your deeper convictions. I want you to know, however, that not one person but several persons--five or six--spoke to me concerning their disappointment in your failure to measure up to the standard they had set for you.

In Topeka, people told me of your drinking in public and of your smoking cigarettes, of your being out at all hours, of your seldom ever getting in--except in the wee hours of the morning.

I think that I told you that soon after the Indiana-Kansas game, faculty members who were not on the Athletic Board came to me and told me of conversations which they had with your father--these same resembling the statements which you have been making in Topeka.

When we had luncheon with Dr. Kirkpatrick, at the Pennant, in a friendly gesture I caught hold of your arm and was struck by the lack of tone in your brachial muscles. I realize that it is perhaps not for me to outline your social behavior during vacation time. But I do know that your behavior during the summer months is a pretty accurate barometer as to your school-time physical condition and your mental attitudes. But when a chap makes seditious remarks concerning his superiors that is doubly bad. It was these remarks which called forth the reprimand.

In addition to the loyalty to your school, your organization, and your coach, there is the added obligation which you owe to the young people who watch you for their inspiration. They are watching every move you make. This is the price that we pay either for public acclaim or for public censure--as the case may be.

It may be that I set my goal too high for you--for your attainment of the durable things of life--the making and the keeping of fast friends--the procurement of a good job--marriage--children--and all of these and more to be favorably introduced by your successful athletic career. And no boy whom I have ever met was ahead of you, in my desire to see this dream come true.