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Lawrence, Kansas  
February 16, 1940

Mr. R. A. Miller,  
Technical Sales Engineer,  
Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.,  
Grant Building,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Miller:

Your letter of the 14th instant has been received together with carbon copies of your letters to the Medart people and Mr. Oswald Tower.

Doubtless Mr. Tower has informed you that the rules as they are now printed state that the backboard shall be of wood or glass painted white. While the spectators are an important item, the backboard has always been for the purpose of giving the proper perspective of the basketball shooter toward the basket, and the first consideration is the player.

There are some people who have long advocated glass backboards, but there is an overwhelming majority against glass backboards unless they are painted white, and when glass is painted white the transparency is lost. Of course, Ned Irish and some of the promoters in Madison Square Garden use the glass banks but that is only as a professional promotion scheme, and does not indicate the feeling of the college conferences and college physical directors as well as basketball coaches.

The writer was coach at the University of Kansas when we installed glass backboards here in 1907. Of course, the purpose was to give visibility to the spectators, many of whom sat behind the basket. A great many of our conference opponents insisted that we change the glass banks each time they visited the University, so it became a very impractical matter to use the glass boards and they were done away with.

The Chicago Center Y.M.C.A. and a great number of leaders of independent and amateur basketball teams had these glass boards installed at their places, but there was so much objection that they had to be done away with. The Medart people and the Narragansett Machine Company installed glass banks along from 1907 to 1912, but I know of no place outside of the professionally promoted places like the Garden where the teams will stand for glass backboards.