

December 30, 1937.

Mr. Curtis W. McGraw,
McGraw-Hill Book Co.,
350 West 42nd Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. McGraw:

This will answer your communication of the
16th instant.

First, I want to assure you, Mr. McGraw, that I have no desire to argue the matter in regard to exhibit 96, page 279. In exhibit 96 the photograph shows the player clear off the floor and it also shows the backboard in which the player is laying the ball preparatory to scoring a goal. Had the drawing on the cover of the book shown the player in the air it would have been altogether a different setup. The drawing merely makes it apparent that the fellow is walking up toward a basket which is very little higher than the players hand.

I had this same situation up with Mr. Hyland when he wanted to cut out the backboard in some of the illustrations, and I told him that we might just as well take the picture of a fellow out in the street because it would not show location. We could have gone outside and taken many pictures if it were not for the fact that we desired scenic background to show proper adjustment.

Referring to "My Basketball Bible", the picture was an actual photograph of a player jumping for the ball. But in the drawing on the cover of "Better Basketball" this shows no elevation, nor the backboard background.

However, if you haven't had any criticisms, it is perfectly all right with me, but I have heard a great many say that they thought this was the only bad feature of the book. And of course I haven't changed my opinion because I believe that the artist missed a great deal in not putting the photograph in its proper environment.

I certainly would not want a publisher to do any more for me than he would do for any other author. However, the author is generally an authority on the book which he writes, and if he took the photographs he took them in certain positions with certain ideas in mind. Had you shown the backboard and the elevation of the player, then it would have been altogether a different thing. The right foot of the player shows him on the