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Lawrence, Kansas

October 17, 1942

PERSONAL

Mr. C. E. McBride,  
The Kansas City Star,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mac:

I am sorry that I haven't had a chance to chew the fat with you for quite some time, but I am dropping you a line confidentially to let you know of the activities of our mutual and good friend, Dr. John Outland. It may be improper for me to blame the good doctor for this activity, but the trail is very obviously his, as I see it.

Ted O'Leary saw me in the stadium at the Marquette game and he told me confidentially that George "Speed" Atkeson, the old football player here and now president of the K. U. Alumni Club in Kansas City, had a set-up that would do the job athletically. He proposed to Ted that Ted be the basketball coach at the University of Kansas and "Speed" be the athletic director, that Dr. Glenn Cunningham be head of the Department of Physical Education, and that perhaps Mike Getto be the varsity football coach and Bill Hargiss the freshman coach. The track coach was not discussed at length, but "Speed" has made a couple of trips to Lawrence seeing some of the athletic board members on the Hill, and only recently Ted told me that he plays handball with "Speed" every day and that "Speed" nearly drives him crazy trying to get Ted to accept the basketball job at K.U.

Of course, it is a laugh because with the outlook for football in the colleges most precarious and with the diminishing financial returns from the game, no school can afford to hire an athletic director unless he were one of the coaches, and rightfully, perhaps, the football coach.

I said to Ted, "Ted, this is not "Speed's" idea. The whole thing is Dr. Johnny "Meddlesome Mattie" Outland's thinking." As soon as he mentioned Glenn Cunningham, and by the way, Glenn is a fine friend of mine, he showed the machinations of the good doctor's brain. Dr. Johnny apparently is very fond of me. I think perhaps he is figuring on asking the legislature to put me on a handsome pension for life. I know he wouldn't forget me. But I did want you to know that Speed, who happens to be Don Ricksecker's son-in-law, and who incidentally is out of a job at the present time, needs one. Can't you do something to help the poor fellow? All he did was to flunk out here at the University and finally get reinstated when a lawyer threatened to sue the Board of Regents when he had flunked out. He