

*Mr. Allen:-
That is quite
like to read this*

December 25, 1933.

Mr. Floyd A. Rowe, Chairman
Joint Basketball Rules Committee,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Rowe:-

I am but one of the many basketball officials who have labored long and sincerely "out in the sticks"; who has always been an advocate of calling them close and as you see them and who called them that way even in the good old days when the rule book wasn't quite as specific about what constituted fouls as it is now; and who continues to officiate because he loves the game and the contact it gives with the younger players.

I am also one of the many who have read with interest, and who have taken to heart the instructions that have come from that reading, your reports of the past two years concerning your investigations of fouls, and because you ask for reactions I am taking the liberty of writing you.

The study you are making is a timely one, and is needed, yet I believe that you haven't made your study comprehensive enough, and the reactions of your committee are apt to mislead the public, not to say anything about the average sport writer, for in publishing your findings one is apt to get the idea that it is the official that is to blame for the fact that fouls have been called and because games seemingly are won by the free throw route. Whether or not it may have been the intention of the committee, at least a reading of your findings seems to put the burden of this matter of foul and foul-calling upon the official, just as if he makes the game in its entirety.

I believe that the average fan (and the average sport writer) feels quite keenly that the official does make or break the game by his whistle-blowing, forgetting that originally the players themselves and the type of play that they have due to their coaching actually make the game, and as an official I feel that these last named factors have more to do with the game than the officiating.

For example. How many times doesn't it happen after a game has been played by two teams, who put a premium on ball handling and basket-making and where the fouls called are few and far between, that everyone, including the coaches, comes up after the game and congratulates the officials for the wonderful game worked. And on the other hand, after a game that has been a bruising one and where fouls have been called, the sentiment is just the opposite.

The fact of the matter may be that the officials may have