ADDRESS

by

PRESIDENT WILLIAM MATHER LEWIS

of Lafayette College

on

ATHLETICS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

before the

Thirty-Fifth Convention of the

National Collegiate Athletic Association

and the

American Football Coaches Association

in New York City

December 30, 1940

ATHLETICS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

Professor Owens, Mr. McMillin, Members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the American Football Coaches Association: I am very happy to be here this morning to take some slight part in this discussion of *Intercollegiate Athletics in Relation to National Defense.*

As Professor Owens has indicated, I approach this subject from two standpoints: first, from the standpoint of the college president; and, then, from the standpoint of a Director of Selective Service, being that in the state of Pennsylvania.

I might say that this dual capacity is a little confusing to me at the present time. It is three days at the college and three days at Harrisburg, and I take the seventh day off to try to adjust myself to which position I am holding at that particular moment. I find that it is a little more difficult for me than for some of my friends to live a double life, although I think that sometimes we think our friends are living a double life when they are not doing so at all. I heard the other day of a man who met a friend on the street one afternoon and asked, "Who was that dame that I saw with you at the sidewalk café last night?" and his friend said, "That wasn't a dame; that was my wife. That wasn't a sidewalk café; that was my furniture!" And so there are times when we are misunderstood. But I do find it rather difficult to make this double approach.

When I was appointed Director of Selective Service in Pennsylvania, one of the Philadelphia papers said sympathetically that I was taking up the most thankless job in the state. But they didn't realize that that had been my profession for many years—after all, a college president is trained to take a thankless job as part of life.

I think there is a certain chain of hotels in which they say that the guest is always right; and, on the other hand, in the academic field, it is a matter of tradition that the college president is always wrong. The college president is the one person among all the groups that make up a college or university that hasn't this very delightful but somewhat

nebulous attribute that is called "academic freedom." He must be all things to all men. He must respect every confidence. He must listen to all sorts of woes every day. In fact, he must be the personification of Kipling's little man "If" that is talked about so much at the football banquets in the fall. If the football season is a complete failure, it is the college president's fault because he refused to fill the dormitories and the lecture rooms with non-paying customers. If the season is a tremendous and stupifying success, it is the president's fault again because the shocked sports writers on all the papers say that this stepping over the amateur bounds could have been stopped by the president if he had wanted to; that the college administration, after all, has in its hands whether the sport shall be amateur or non-amateur. We thank the sports writers for the compliment and hereafter we will add another duty by joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation and following the embattled alumni to their hide-outs.

After all, believe it or not, there is one good point about the college president, and that is that he knows just what his position is, particularly in the athletic field and with a group of athletic people such as are here this morning.

So, having made my point clear, as one who is always mistaken, I am going to ask you to listen to a few suggestions which I have as to how to make football more successful in the national program than it is today.

We have to have real direction at a time like this. We have to know which way we are going. Even the football coaches need direction. I notice that in your conference of yesterday you decided to have the goal posts widened. I think that is a mistake. I think that some of you need to have the goal posts nearer. That would have more effect upon your season's success, perhaps.

I notice also that you have decided to have a more liberal policy in connection with putting substitutes into the game. I quite disagree with you on that point. Every football contract should have in it a clause which says that both teams should have the same number of players on the bench at any given game. That would make better sport out of it, and, after all, you still have to think of the paying public that comes to your games. I don't object to a football team in which I am interested being defeated every once in a while, but when I see it defeated by four different teams on the same Saturday afternoon, I think that is just too much! And so I don't agree with you on that point of view.

Now, as to the ethical situation. We hear so much of that at the end of the season, both from coaches and college presidents. May I suggest that this matter of non-ethical teams

can be very easily taken care of? In making your schedule, you don't have to play the teams that you don't think are as ethical as you are. I have noticed that the highly built-up teams have more and more difficulty getting good schedules and that they have to go to this part of the country and to that, and that they have no regular rivalries. I believe the traditional rivalry means as much for the ethics of football as does anything else. By their schedules, ye shall know them!

In the second place, good football can be encouraged if you don't have illusions of grandeur. Perhaps you will never go to the Rose Bowl, but sooner or later there are going to be as many bowls in the United States as there are in Macy's basement! And in the meantime, you can live a normal athletic life.

Again, I hope that none of you—and I am sure that none of you do today—urge great football players to come to college who aren't college material, who are not the type that can stand up in a first-class college, because that great freshman team that is taken out of the trenches the second semester never does any college athletic department any good.

In the fourth place, I hope that you and the college faculties are going to see to it that your institutions are represented upon the gridiron and on the track and on the diamond by gentlemen and by students.

Finally, I think that the whole question of athletic ethics is settled when the athletic department is an organic and an inherent part of the college, just as the department of chemistry or biology or German, let us say, is.

Now, that is all I have to say by way of the arraignment of college football, which you all expect from a college president at this time of year. So I have done my duty up to the present moment.

What I came to you to talk about this morning is a far more serious matter, is a far more challenging matter, than this specific matter of rules for football or any other form of athletics. That is the development of a generation of young men in the United States who have the red blood, who have the stamina, who have the loyalty, to protect the American way of life at a moment when it needs to have it protected so greatly. There is no more effective group in the United States to do it today than you who have upon your shoulders this great athletic and this great moral and spiritual responsibility.

I don't think, men, we realize quite the position we are in today. We have worked out all of these fine football schedules for next fall. We have not one reason to be perfectly sure today that any of those games will be played because

of the cloud of war that hangs over this country. God helping us, we are not going to get into the war.

I pray that we may keep out of the war if we can keep out of it honorably, and I stress that term "honorably," because not only have we to think of the loss of life of these boys of ours whom we are coaching today, not only have we to think of the tremendous piling up of debts that will never be paid—even by our grandchildren—but isn't it true that there must, when this holocaust is over, be some great nation that has stood apart and that will have in its hands the rehabilitation of a war-torn world? I think so; and I think that is the challenge to you and to me today—to think of athletics in broader terms than we ever have before, because America is the only great nation in which academic matters are moving forward normally. Only three weeks ago they dropped bombs and tore apart the great old University at Athens. Four weeks ago they closed the two universities in Holland because there were Jewish professors in them who insisted upon teaching the truth. Last spring they entirely destroyed the library of the University of Louvain, and with it 750,000 volumes—many of them first editions without any duplicates in the world. Today there is no university education, as it should be, in Germany—that country from which the best scholars of the world have come. Those universities are still open, but they are propaganda institutions. Truth and the teaching of truth have been eliminated from them. In Oxford and Cambridge there is little academic life. Cambridge is partially a military headquarters, and most of those boys are in the R.A.F. The Sorbonne in Paris is out of the picture. The great University in Poland has been destroyed. We sent no boys abroad as Rhodes Scholars this year.

I am saying all this merely to suggest to you that on the American college and on the American university, on their departments—those of athletics more than a good many others, perhaps—there rests the responsibility of preserving civilization at a most trying time in the history of the world. That is what we are here for, as I take it, to consider how to preserve certain values; how to strengthen the youth of America to meet the issue which is to come before them.

I have said to you that we hope to God that we will not be in this war and in this present military conflict. But there isn't a chance in the world that the boys in your gymnasiums, in your locker rooms, will not be called upon, when they graduate, to participate in a tremendous economic and social and political conflict forced upon us by the totalitarian powers.

There is something that we can face and realize, and that

is that those who are to win in this contest must have a strong moral purpose, strong physical bodies, strong minds, and an approach to truth that is clean and fine and strong. Because, after all, men, if you trace back what is behind this great international upheaval of today you will find that in Europe and in America immorality has gone past the personal stage; it has gone to the place where nations are immoral, where lies are part of the force which is used by certain totalitarian powers.

France didn't fall because of strength without. France fell because of weakness within, because of something inside that was working havoc, a propaganda of lies. Belgium was the victim of propaganda.

I come to you to suggest that in the athletic departments of this country there lies a responsibility for building up a love for truth, of clean manhood. There can be no No Man's Land between truth and falsehood. You can teach, better than any other group of men in any college, what truth means. That is my objection to a concealed program of subsidizing in any college. It isn't the fact that one college is built up and beats another; it is the fact that the system of subsidizing influences the boys, particularly the boys who are subsidized and are told to tell nothing about it, and, more than that, the college body as a whole. I think the time has come when we must realize that absolute honesty, cost what it will, is going to preserve civilization more than anything else; that nations are but groups of individuals, and that if people as a whole laugh at truth, if we take short-cuts, if we sneer at moral principles, sooner or later we are going down as other nations have gone down.

In the second place, gentlemen, we need as never before in the history of the world men who are unselfish; men who are kindly; men who are thoughtful. I am sure that you have that sort of men on your athletic teams, because let me say this to you, that I have observed over a long period of many, many years in education, the boys who are in team athletics, who are strong physically, are the most loyal, are the most appreciative boys in the average American institution. I would take them any time as over against those boys who spend their leisure time in smoke-filled rooms—those pseudo-intelligentsia discussing what is wrong with the American way. If they only knew—what is wrong is with their digestions and not with the American way! I would rather have the type of boy who spends his spare time on the athletic field.

And now my critics will say, "Oh, you're in favor of healthy morons." No; I am in favor of healthy, normal, loyal human beings. No; I am in favor of physical strength

rather than emotional instability, and I am in favor of the old athletes of Oxford and Cambridge up in the air today in the R.A.F., as against those moles under the ground in England that are trying to tear down the motherland.

Now, to get down to more absolutely specific things. Both Mr. McMillin and Professor Owens have spoken of the broader athletic program. I will not be satisfied with what we are doing in the national defense side of this program until every boy in every institution is in some sort of organized team play, and I mean by that not filling the intramural teams alone but getting more candidates for intercollegiate teams. I think there is only one way of doing that, and that is to eliminate the distinction between major and minor sports in the college program. Any boy who goes out for any team gives it the best he has, if he is a real sport, and for that reason it is a major sport to him. England has done away with class distinctions under the bombs and under the flares, and we ought to do away with class distinctions in athletics. We ought to see that the tribute is paid to any boy who makes his letter, no matter what the sport is, because that will bring more boys out for our organized teams.

In the second place, I think any director of athletics ought to have more pride in bringing one boy who is a victim of, let's say, infantile paralysis back to strength than in directing a dozen super-athletes. As has already been suggested, we need more men with strong physiques.

As Director of Selective Service for Pennsylvania I am much concerned to observe the number of young men who are being turned back to deferred classification for physical reasons. I realize that a good many of them are turned back for minor faults—a few teeth lacking, or something of that kind, or because the regulations haven't been brought up to date—but when you find out the amount of tuberculosis, the amount of social disease, the results of alcoholism and drug addiction, eye-strain, malnutrition and a dozen other things, you and I—who think that America is strong and virile—must pause and think what our part is to be in this thing.

My answer, gentlemen, is that the college athletic organization has to go off the campus tomorrow and serve the community. There are over 16,000,000 young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six who were registered last fall on the 16th of October. Out of those, if we don't get in the war, at least 4,500,000 are going to be called to the colors, but they are going to be called in small increments. We can cut down the number placed in the deferred classes, if every college and university in the United States, if every Y.M.C.A. and Y.M.H.A., if every Boy Scout organization that have gymnasiums, throw open their doors to reg-

istrants and give them a fine program of physical training. The college should take the initiative in this, get these registrants in and build up the hollow-chested fellows of whom I have seen so many. We should give them a social chance to have some fun out of it by playing games with the others; but most of all we should correct the weakness of America before it is too late, because it is a glaring weakness.

How will you do that, you say. You may have seniors who are majoring in physical education. Put them at this task of training these outside groups, using the gymnasium when you are not using it in your regular program and the swimming pool and the fieldhouse and the other facilities. That is a great challenge. You say, "Oh, we are terribly busy in our athletic department." Well, men, in a democratic form of government, national defense shouldn't be merely the responsibility and the privilege of the boys of the nation, those boys who haven't a vote as to whether they should go to war or not. In a democracy everyone should make his sacrifice for national unity and national strength. There is your job and there is my job.

Think of it! Nearly one thousand colleges in the United States whose gymnasia are not used all the time. Think of the tens of thousands of high schools, of the athletic plants of athletic clubs, and you have the answer to the question of physical fitness, if you have a devoted citizenry among the men who are the leaders of the athletics.

I am here this morning to appeal to you to carry the college athletic program off the campus into the community, not for Old Siwash, or whatever institution you are connected with, but for the United States of America at a time of great need.

I watched from my office in Harrisburg what happened on the 16th of October. Hitler was watching; Mussolini was watching; Stalin was watching—and they hoped that day there would be draft riots as there were at the time of the Civil War; they hoped that there would be grumbling about it as there had been on other similar occasions. There wasn't anything of that kind. A hundred and thirty million people gave the finest that they had—the youth of this country—to aid America in her defense through the medium of registration. Unity was never more needed; unity was never more shown than on that day.

But, men, today we have a much more serious problem than mere registration. You heard the President last night, and you know that war may be nearer than we think, although we still hope to avoid it. But whether that is true or not, we have an opportunity of training today the youth of America as we haven't had the opportunity in the life of

this country. Let's make something out of it. Let's show that the athletic departments of the American colleges can justify themselves as training schools of fine citizenship.

It is trite, of course, to say that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of great private schools, of Eton, in England; but it isn't trite to say that the athletic officers of the American colleges today have it in their hands to decide whether or not the young men of America will go forth prepared, either for warfare when the guns are booming, or in the other warfare that we must face, economic and social and political.

I remember, some years ago when I lived in Washington, I was asked by the Boy Scouts to give a George Washington Birthday address at the Tomb of the First Great American, during their annual pilgrimage to Mount Vernon. I drove down with General LeJeun, whom some of you knew. We got there before the Boy Scouts did, because of the fact that they came down by excursion steamer. As we stood there by the Tomb, a little group from the American Citizenship School of Washington came up—about thirty of them from eighteen or nineteen to twenty-three years of age. A boy stepped forward with a poor little wreath and laying it against the grated door of the tomb in broken English, with tears rolling down his cheeks he said, "George Washington, you are dead. You cannot speak to us. But you can speak to God. Speak to God, George Washington, and ask Him to make us good citizens of the country which has done so much for us."

I thought then, and I have thought many times since, that if we could teach the college boys of America to utter that prayer from their hearts, not from their lips, America would be safer than she is today.

You have that power. I have that power. There is no separation between the athletic departments and the other departments in our colleges today, in their opportunity and their responsibility for that service which may save civilization.

PHYSICAL FITNESS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

Resolution adopted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association at its Annual Convention, Hotel New Yorker, New York City, December 30 - 31, 1940.

Supporting the action taken during the course of the past year by its Executive Committee in urging its member colleges and universities to expand and intensify their programs of intercollegiate athletics, intramural athletics and physical training for their student bodies as a contribution to the cause of national defense, the National Collegiate Athletic Association now meeting in session at its thirty-fifth Annual Convention gives its full affirmation to such programs, and in addition makes these recommendations to its member institutions:

1. That to the full extent of their resources they expand their researches in the fields of public health, physical training and allied problems and their programs for the training of teachers and leaders in these same fields;
2. That they make available their facilities and their trained personnel to the youth of the local communities and the surrounding regions, and that they coöperate fully with such non-college organizations as the American Legion, the Athletic Institute, and all other well-established service clubs and societies to promote sports, physical training and health programs throughout their communities and the nation at large.
3. That to all branches of the armed services of the government they stand ready to coöperate, through their facilities and staffs, in extending every possible aid at their disposal in support of programs making for physical fitness and high morale.

January 22, 1943.

Mr. Ted North,
8235 Fountain Ave.,
Casa Del Oriente,
Hollywood, California.

Dear Ted:

I was pleased indeed to have your letter of the 14th instant and it is a pleasure to write a recommendation for you for officer training at the Coast Guard Academy.

We follow you pretty closely in the films and at every opportunity we see you. Congratulations on your climb. You are doing a fine job of it.

We are just leaving with the team for a basketball game at Camp Crowder, Missouri, so you will pardon the brevity of this letter. I would enjoy writing you at some length if my schedule did not call me elsewhere.

With all good wishes for your continued success, I am

Fraternally yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

January 22, 1943.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to commend to your consideration Mr. Edward Ernest Steinel North, a graduate of the University of Kansas.

Ted North, as we knew him on the campus here, is a young man of very strong character, personality, and has a wonderful ability to meet people and make friends. He was tremendously interested in athletics and competed on our intramural teams. He was outstanding in dramatics, debate and public speaking, and was a mixer of exceptional ability with the students. He was a leader.

Ted North knows the meaning of the word loyalty to the nth degree. He is exceptionally clean, and is a vigorous young man. He is the fighter type, and in my opinion would make an excellent candidate for officer material. As I said, he is clean, personable and capable. He has a splendid character and a fine bearing and appearance.

I would recommend him without reservation.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

from the desk of

Ted North

January 14th, 1943

Dr. F. C. Allen
University of Kansas Athletic Dept.
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

Needless to say, I am one of the many who were quite pleased with the way your ball club has snapped out of it after a rather hectic session at the beginning of the year.

It seems as though our Psi brothers have been a problem here of late, but speaking strictly as an outsider it would appear from the surface that things have been patched up -- at least the scores indicate that.

I guess I am just a hometown boy at heart but I still follow with great enthusiasm the basketball team at the State "U".

Sorry I wasn't there the other night for the Missouri game -- last time I saw them play was when I went with you on the bus to Columbia in the spring of '39 and they gathered fifty some points, but I don't know why I should remind you of those unpleasant things.

I am on my third year of contract at 20th Century-Fox. At the end of my second year they gave me a one hundred dollar a week raise, but the war has put an end to all young men working in pictures except a few who have families. I am getting ready to go in the service like everyone else.

I am submitting an application for Officers' Training at the Coast Guard Academy. It requires three letters of recommendation and I thought perhaps one from you, who, I hope, remembers a little something about me at school, would be greatly appreciated. Coming from you I know it would carry a great deal of weight.

As I look back, I was in a lot of activities, but the only rabble-rousing I ever did was to start a fire under (our old friend) Ad Lindsay. Will you ever forget the time that Friend called you and wanted the Phi Psi's to cease heckling his son-in-law?

Be sure and remember me to Mrs. Allen and the family, and Bob and Mit.

* * * 8235 FOUNTAIN AVE.
CASA DEL ORIENTE
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

from the desk of

Ted North

If you have a few minutes to write the letter, send it to my home address and I will be ever grateful. Incidentally, I am enlisted under the name of Edward Ernest Steinel North and reference should be made to me that way to the Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard.

With kindest personal regards, and wishing you every success in the new year, I remain

Fraternally,

Ted North

Ted North

* * * 8235 FOUNTAIN AVE.
CASA DEL ORIENTE
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

1073342 L.A.C. Nelson, L.,
c/o Mrs. J. Yates,
Hall Meadow,
Tean, Staffs.,
England.

12. vi. 42

Dear Dr. Allen,

The copy of "Better Basketball" you so kindly sent me arrived safely only two days after I had acknowledged your letter, i.e. on May 20. Thanks very much, Dr. Allen, the gift is more than appreciated.

There's one thing I mustn't forget to mention in this letter. My wife recently told me she had heard a Canadian broadcast reference to bicentenary of basketball celebrations taking place this year. Wasn't the game founded in 1891?

Anyhow, last year I drew the attention of the Secretary of the Amateur Basket Ball Association here to the fact that 1941 was the 50th. anniversary of the foundation of basketball & suggested that the Association stage a big match between the Forces and War Workers. Unfortunately the proposal was considered impracticable owing to the exigencies of the war. But was I premature?

I hope you will be able to let me have all the information I asked for in my letter of May 18. As you were so intimately associated with Dr. Naismith I'm sure you'll have heaps of interesting data.

Anything you can send me to add to my knowledge of the sport will be most welcome, Dr. Allen. I am looking forward eagerly to reading your "My Basketball Bible": I do hope you can get hold of a spare copy for me.

If you could get someone to compile a list of publishers of basketball books with addresses, this would prove of much value to me. Just think of me as a fanatical enthusiast, Dr. Allen, and don't hesitate to forward anything dealing with the cage game.

Regarding the kind inscription in your book, of which I am utterly unworthy, I should like to express the immense satisfaction of Britons to know your country is "in with us" in the struggle against Hitlerism and to affirm our conviction that together we shall march to Victory.

Today's heartening announcement of the new 20-year Anglo-Soviet Pact, with the pledge that we shall definitely create a Second Front THIS YEAR, brings the end of the war in sight at last. I am confident the United Nations will have settled accounts with the Nazis by this time next year — and then what price the Japs?

Isn't it odd how public opinion "directs" the war? People here have been clamouring for months for a Second Front. Firstly veiled then open statements by politicians and diplomats pointed to the fulfilment of this aim. Russia, hard-pressed as she is, needs direct aid on the Western Front urgently, and none of us will be happy until she gets it.

Apart from those awful blitzes this country has not yet suffered to the extent one might have expected — but who can deny the deep wounds inflicted on our Russian allies? I feel our sacrifices are not on the massive, national scale of the Soviet: we can deny ourselves a great deal more. But, slowly yet surely, the country is awakening to the vital issues at stake and will certainly slaughter the Tyrant of Berchtesgaden and all his Gangsters. Those 1000-plane raids on Germany are merely a foretaste of things to come. The United Nations,

pledged to secure Freedom for All, must triumph.

But I've digressed . . . I really wanted only to assure You that we in this Country are still fighting fit and all set for the decisive battle, confident of a victorious outcome.

Before I close, Dr. Allen, I should like to correct a misapprehension. I am not, unfortunately, a pilot in the Royal Air Force — owing to a defective "Nelson" eye, which prevented my being accepted for air crew duties. Having endured the boredom of ground wireless work I am now pleased to say that I am applying for a Commission in the new R.A.F. Regiment, whose principal task is to defend our aerodromes, landing-fields, etc. I have had my "medical," been passed fit, have

Sent in my papers, and am just waiting for my course. I shall feel happier when I tackle my new work.

Well, Dr. Allen, I mustn't take up any more of your time, so will sign off. I confess, however, that I love corresponding with citizens of the United States, for whom I have the greatest admiration.

Wishing you all the best and hoping that we shall soon be able to rejoice in a glorious victory,

I remain,

Cordially Yours,

Laurence Nelson

Ex-Hon. Secretary, Manchester Y.M.C.A. Basketball Club.

PERMANENT ADDRESS:
1, Oswald Road,
Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
MANCHESTER, 21.

1073342 L.A.C. Nelson, L.,
c/o Mrs.J.Yates,
Hall Meadow,
TEAN, STAFFS.,
E N G L A N D.

May 18, 1942

Dear Dr.Allen,

I was surprised and delighted to receive your letter of March 25, which arrived safely a week ago today.

It was very good of Mr.Robert A.Cook to have referred me to you, and I appreciate immensely your generosity in sending under separate cover a copy of your formidable book, "Better Basketball." At the time of writing this hasn't reached me, doubtless due to the exigencies of the war.

I would point out, however, that I already have a copy of "Better Basketball," a text which I value beyond words. And I asked Mr.Cook if he could possibly let me have a copy of your other work, "My Basketball Bible." If you could forward me a copy of this book, with its intriguing title - as I am a devoted disciple of basketball - I would be exceedingly grateful.

The copy of "Better Basketball" which you have been good enough to despatch won't be wasted, Dr.Allen. I'll put it to good use: shall probably award it as a prize for the most promising player after the war. Meanwhile there is a bigger prize sought by us all - Hitler.

You may be surprised to know that I wrote to you as long ago as November 10, 1939 - but received no reply. I enclose a copy of my letter, from which you will see that I have been striving for "My Basketball Bible" for a long time.

May I repeat my request for <u>any</u> material concerning the hoop game ? I should like to have as many photographs as you can spare (their publicity value would be great), up-to-date information regarding rules, tactics, players, etc.

Since my last letter to you Dr.Naismith, the founder of basketball and a former colleague of yours, has passed away. I wrote a tribute to him in the "Manchester City News"as soon as I learned of his death from an obituary notice in the "Christian Science Monitor." If you could send me any further biographical details, Dr.Allen, I would be much obliged.

As I stated in my last letter basketball has not yet been adopted here on a national basis - not in a big way. We have an Amateur Basketball Association, with headquarters at Birmingham, and the secretary, Mr.J.A.Clay, is as keen as I - but not keener ! He still keeps the flag flying in the Midlands, though I'm sorry to say many gymnasia have been badly blitzed and I believe he has the use of only one now. In London the Central Y.M.C.A. received a direct hit, but as the gymnasium is in the basement it escaped damage. The gym is used as a dormitory for the Forces, however, and I guess basketball has been forsaken for the duration.

In Manchester the game flourishes so far as it can with a depleted membership. It is really a wonder that basketball is still played at all during the war. Unfortunately, I myself get no opportunity to play, but I always enjoy a work-out -often alone - when I go home on leave.

I have ambitious ideas to foster the sport after the war. Perhaps I shall be able to persuade my employers, the "Daily Herald," to sponsor a campaign to encourage the development of basketball. As a journalist I have a ready-made chance to further the cause of the game. Up to this time the Press has ignored basketball because it isn't "box-office."

Well, Dr.Allen, I won't impose myself upon you any longer. I'm afraid I can barely restrain myself when I dwell on my favourite pastime, and you must excuse my exuberance. Thank you again for your kindness in sending me a copy of "Better Basketball" (I'll acknowledge it on receipt) and I hope you will be able to let me have lots of material about the game as soon as you can. I look forward eagerly to your next communication.

Please remember me to Mr.Cook and thank him for his co-operation - and the splendid basketball I received from him on Christmas Day. With kindest regards and best wishes - and a toast to Victory for the United Nations, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Laurence Nelson

LAURENCE NELSON.

1, Oswald Road,

Chorlton-cum-Hardy,

MANCHESTER, 21,

E N G L A N D .

10. xi. 39.

Dear Mr.Allen,

I have had the pleasure of reviewing your BETTER BASKETBALL for the "Manchester City News (May 20, 1939), having obtained a copy from the London office of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Co.Ltd.

Later I asked Messrs.McGraw-Hill for a copy of your MY BASKETBALL BIBLE for review purposes but they told me they had never heard of the book !

I wonder if I would be imposing on you if I asked you to let me have a copy. I am particularly anxious to add this work to my small library on basketball - the finest game in the world ! I shall review it, of course.

Perhaps you may help me in other respects, too. Could you favour me with photographs of yourself and Dr.James Naismith, who, I am given to understand, is still a member of the faculty of Kansas University? Any biographical data about both of you would also be welcomed.

If you have written any other books on the hoop game I should appreciate details.

Basketball has not yet been adopted in Britain in a big way. The public still confuses the sport with the girls' game, netball ! The war has dealt basketball a nasty blow, for all the Mormon missionaries, who were the backbone of English basketball, have returned to the States. But our National Competition is to

continue.

I believe the sport has a big future in this country, although it has been played here for more than 20 years already ! I, myself, have played since 1927, and have taken part in tournaments on the Continent, where the game has certainly taken on well.

My ambition is to see basketball played by Britons like cricket and football. The Amateur Basket Ball Association is doing good work in this direction. Another fond hope of mine is to be able to watch a first-class match in America.

Well, Mr.Allen, I hope you will receive this letter safely and that I haven't bored you.

Looking forward to your reply,

I am,

Cordially yours,

LAURENCE NELSON.

Forrest C.Allen, Esq.,
University of Kansas,
Kansas City,
Kansas,
U.S.A.

December 21, 1942.

Mr. George Nettles,
Pittsburg, Kansas.

Dear George:

Clair Gillin and a boy by the name of Coulter were stars on the Pittsburg High team when they played Lawrence the other night. Gillin scored 31 points, as many as the entire Lawrence team scored.

Woestemeyer officiated the game and told me about the boys. They are both interested in K.U., and Gillin wants to go into medicine. I am wondering if you will contact these two boys, because somebody else might talk them out of it in the meantime. I will appreciate it if you will see the boys.

I am writing this just before leaving for New York. Our team is not going well at all. A few family affairs among the team members - not the most compatible thing in the world, but we will go through with it. Since this is a war year we are expected to take everything in stride.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

November 18, 1942.

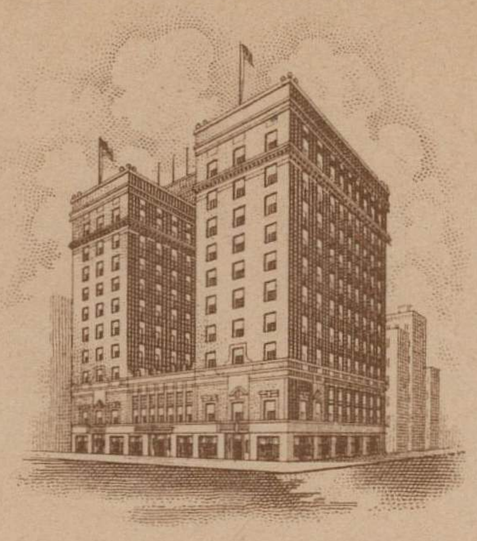
Mr. A. Q. Schimmel,
Managing Director,
Hotel Cornhusker,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

Before your letter of the 16th arrived, Dr. Allen and his party had made arrangements to stay at the Hotel Lincoln during the time of the Physical Fitness Institute. However, he wishes to express his appreciation of your courtesy in replying to his inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen.



UNDER
SCHIMMEL DIRECTION

HOTEL CORNHUSKER
LINCOLN~NEBRASKA

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

November the Sixteenth
19 42

Forrest C.Allen,
Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach,
University of Kansas
Lawrence,Kansas

Greetings,Mr.Allen:

.....I appreciate your letter of November 14, and we shall be happy to welcome your party of six from your Department of Physical Education, attending the Regional Training Institute for Physical Fitness, to The Cornhusker. The three ladies,Miss Ruth Hoover,Miss Joie Stapleton, and Miss Jean Bliss, may all be assigned to one room at the rate of $2 per person per day. The room will be equipped with one double bed and one single day bed, and will have private bath. The same arrangement may be made for you three men - Mr.Henry Shenk,Mr. R.Strait, and you.

.....we shall look forward to receiving your definite instructions to have accommodations available when you arrive November 19 and through the 21st. Assuring you of every courtesy at The Cornhusker, I am

Optimistically yours,

Managing Director
Hotel cornhusker

A.Q.Schimmel
w

IN SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
HOTEL KINGS-WAY

IN GALESBURG, ILLINOIS
HOTEL CUSTER

IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA
HOTEL BLACKSTONE

November 14, 1942.

Miss Mabel Lee,
Department of Physical Education,
University of Nebraska,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Miss Lee:

We have six people from our Department of Physical Education who will be in attendance at the Regional Training Institute on Physical Fitness Programs at the University of Nebraska on November 19, 20, and 21. Doubtless some of these individuals may have written you appraising you of the fact that we expect to be there. This note is merely to confirm the fact that the following persons will attend: Miss Ruth Hoover, Miss Joie Stapleton, Miss Jean Bliss, Mr. Henry Shenk, Mr. R. R. Strait, and myself.

Appreciating your hospitality, I am

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

November 14, 1942.

Mr. A. Q. Schimmel, Manager,
Cornhusker Hotel,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

We have six people from our Department of Physical Education who will be in attendance at the Regional Training Institute on Physical Fitness Programs to be held at the University of Nebraska on November 19, 20, 21.

Miss Ruth Hoover, head of the women's department, Miss Joie Stapleton, supervisor of practice teachers, Miss Jean Bliss, dance instructor, Mr. Henry Shenk, supervisor of practice teachers, Mr. R. Strait, swimming instructor, and myself will desire accommodations.

I am wondering if you will give our people the same rate that you give our football and basketball teams when they stay with you. Please quote us rates for three in a suite, rooms with bath, or single and double rooms. I imagine it would be more patriotic to double up, would it not, if you are crowded? I will appreciate your prompt response.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

November 14, 1942.

Manager,
Hotel Lincoln,
Lincoln Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

Since your manager has gone to war and your assistant manager also, I do not know to whom to write. I cannot recall the name of the married lady with a family who is on the switchboard in the evening. She has been there for fifteen years or more. My purpose in mentioning her is to identify myself. I have been coach at the University of Kansas for 25 years and we have always stopped at the Hotel Lincoln.

We will have six people from our Department of Physical Education who will be in attendance at the Regional Training Institute on Physical Fitness Programs to be held at the University of Nebraska on November 19, 20, 21. Miss Ruth Hoover, head of the women's department, Miss Joie Stapleton, supervisor of practice teachers, Miss Jean Bliss, dance teacher, Mr. Henry Shenk, supervisor of practice teachers, Mr. R. R. Strait, swimming instructor, and myself will desire accommodations.

I am wondering if you would give our people in this department the same rates that you give to our basketball and football teams when they stay with you. Please quote us rates for three in a suite, rooms with bath, or single and double rooms. I imagine it would be more patriotic to double up, would it not, if you are crowded? I will appreciate your prompt response.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

NCAA

October 2, 1942.

Major John L. Griffith,
National Collegiate Athletic Association,
Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Major Griffith:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I have just written to President Badger concerning our physical conditioning program here at the University of Kansas in connection with the war effort.

I thought you might be interested in what we are doing.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

October 2, 1942.

Mr. Philip O. Badger, President,
National Collegiate Athletic Association,
New York University,
Washington Square,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear President Badger:

I am happy to have your letter of September 21 regarding the physical training programs of the colleges and their importance to the war effort.

I am enclosing some printed material concerning our conditioning and toughener program which we have inaugurated here at the University of Kansas. We have an integrated program, in that our senior R.O.T.C. students who are also enrolled in our conditioning classes are given the opportunity of conducting the formal program or disciplinary exercises, which occupy about twelve minutes of the hour. The class is then turned over to our class instructors who send them through the obstacle course, the body contact drills and touch football, basketball, etc., in rotation class order. We have built two obstacle courses on rough terrain, one near the stadium and one south of the gymnasium. I am enclosing a sketch of the obstacle course.

The requirement for all men is for every semester the men remain in the University. For the women the requirement is one year. Over six unexcused absences shall constitute a withdrawal from the University. A special committee has been appointed by the University to handle the petitions for exemption.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association

September 21, 1942

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, at its annual convention in Detroit last December, passed resolutions urging its members to enlarge and intensify their physical training programs to insure the proper physical conditioning of their students for the prosecution of the war. Many of the institutions comprising our membership already have effective programs in operation, and many more will initiate them with the opening of college this fall.

The vital importance to the war effort of these physical hardening programs in the colleges cannot be overestimated. The experience of all branches of the armed forces with the men coming into the service amply demonstrates the urgent need for full cooperation by the colleges in this regard, in preparing their students for the task of winning the war. The fact that most of the enlisted reserve programs established in the colleges specifically require that a definite amount of time be devoted to physical conditioning, indicates the importance attached to this matter by the armed forces. This is definitely emphasized by Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department and Chairman, Joint Army-Navy Personnel Board. In a letter addressed to college presidents, he states:-

"It is the hope of the Navy Department that the students of all universities and colleges throughout the country will realize fully the seriousness of the present war and the sacrifice and toil each must make in order to fashion a total victory from it. It is further hoped that the men of the universities will institute among themselves a regime of self-discipline and conditioning in order better to complete the immediate job at hand and prepare for the greater tasks to come. It is sincerely urged that the college officials and faculty members will support and participate in all such programs....."The rejection

figures for physical defects released by the Selective Service Commission are staggering. The armed forces are succeeding slowly with the actual training and mental and physical conditioning of their men. While this is being done, other young men of the nation should be taking time by the forelock so that the job will be less weighty for the armed forces when they join the ranks."

Bulletin Number 32 of the American Council on Education contains a report of a Special Committee of the War Manpower Commission, on "The Utilization of Colleges and Universities for the Purposes of the War." It states:-

"Any adequate plan designed to make effective use of colleges and universities, professional and technical schools, must be based upon the following considerations:-.....(6) "Throughout the preparation for wartime service provision should be made for securing the complete physical fitness of the students."

The responsibility of the colleges and universities is obvious. It cannot be dodged. It must be met.

The Executive Committee of The National Collegiate Athletic Association, after careful study and consideration, being convinced of the vital importance and urgency of this matter, believes that in order to adequately fulfill this responsibility, every college and university should provide a physical training program which:-

(1) Is compulsory for all students registered under the Selective Service Act, subject to adjustment for students with physical disabilities.

(2) Requires <u>at least</u> three periods a week of not less than one hour each, preferably of an hour and a half each. Five periods a week, where possible, will increase the effectiveness of such programs.

(3) Is designed to develop (a) Endurance; (b) Agility:-(Coordination, timing, rhythm, etc.); (c) Courage:- (aggressiveness, the combative quality, self-confidence, etc.)

It is recognized that conditions vary at different institutions so that no one set program will be suitable for all. But the basic requirements can be met by all, even by those institutions with limited facilities. College athletic directors are competent to work out the details. Reports on the programs already developed by some of the colleges and universities have been published in the Athletic Journal. Various branches of the armed forces have developed detailed programs, regarding which, information may possibly be available later.

The task before us is a big one; the difficulties are great for many institutions. But it is a vitally important task, which <u>must</u> be undertaken, and <u>accomplished</u>, to the very best of our ability if we are to meet our responsibilities in the war effort. To those of our members who have already inaugurated such programs we extend our sincere commendation; upon those who have not, we urge the imperative necessity of providing such programs at once.

The Executive Committee
By Philip O. Badger, President
John L. Griffith, Secretary-Treas.