

n April 4, 1942.

Mr. Reaves Peters,
Commission, Big Six Conference,
342 So. Chelsea Avenue,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Reaves:

I am writing you with no immediate objective in mind, but I wanted to pass on to you what I am convinced is the proper procedure when you want good officiating.

I recall that Henry Iba and I met with Ab Curtis and Ronald Gibbs and we discussed very frankly what we thought should be called. The play of both teams showed that both coaches had gone back to their players and cautioned them against fouls and violations that heretofore had been committed by these two teams. In other words, I thought it was a very constructive meeting.

Personally, I do not think the ends are served when the commissioner or some other person gets together with the officials and endeavors to tell them the interpretations as the commissioner thinks the game should be officiated. Now, Reaves, I am not reflecting on your ability or lack of ability, but when you get coaches who are honest in their intent, with the officials and the commissioner, if you please, then I believe you get the real McCoy. Maybe we don't need this procedure often. But I can think of a very fine set-up where you might have a championship or a near championship game, and if the commissioner were present and if the coaches got together with the two officials prior to the game in a secluded room and they openly discussed their covenants I believe the game would be better officiated.

You can't talk between halves and you dare not say anything before or after a game. Therefore, I would like to know when you can discuss it, if ever, unless you would have the meeting of all the officials who are to work with the coaches at the interpretation meeting, and then it becomes too much of an involved problem where coaches and even officials are apt to turn on a hypothetical problem and not get to the point as Iba and I did. I was impressed that both the Aggies and Kansas men were more careful on their violations after that meeting.

I am taking a hypothetical case now, where, for instance, Jack Gardner and I might meet together with the two officials and you, if you were present, prior to a game. It has not been necessary for such a thing but it would have been fine before the Oklahoma game at Norman if you could have been there and called the two.