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July 3, 1938.

Mr. Fred J. Pralle,
5001 Claxton St.,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Friend Fred:

God bless you, you St. Louis Dutchman! You have really been abused, and I didn't mean to abuse you. If there is anyone for whom I want to autograph a "Better Basketball" book with a degree of feeling, that one is you. No, sir, I am going to give you a book out of my own personal fund, and not have the Athletic Association pay for it. You know they bought that one, Fred.

I want you to know that I was as sure as taxes and death, almost, that I had given you a book. I am awfully sorry that you had to write me, but I am glad I did insist on the return of that book so I can put in your book the thing that I want to say. I will send you this book tomorrow.

I am sitting here in the office dictating this just 45 seconds after I opened your letter. Elwyn Dees brought the letter in to me and I opened it immediately and read it aloud to Elwyn and Mrs. Hulteen. And what a shock I got! I would have sworn that I had given you a book, and on the face of all things I would say that you wrote a darn nice letter. I think if I had been you I would have put a little sarcasm in it. But Fred, I didn't mean to pass you up, and now I am going to write what I want to in your book and you will get it by Monday.

I have just dictated a letter to Ray Ebling stating that I had heard you signed up with the Cards and had written Phillips asking for a release, and then asked to be reinstated again, and I was worried about you. I want you to come up to the expectations that I hold for you. You've got everything in your favor, Fred, and I want you to make good. I am very fond of you. Even though you didn't finish your eight hours with a great blaze of glory, and maybe it will never be necessary that you do graduate, I want sometime for you to come back and finish that work for your degree in some Summer Session. I don't know whether you can take the last hours by correspondence or not. It might be that you could obtain special permission from the University through your good connections with President Adams of the Phillips Company. But I wouldn't think of asking it now, if I were you. If you can't get it done that way you can come back and finish up some time and it will do something to you that you just don't realize at the present time.