

To refresh your memory, I believe there were eight flashlight photographers on the court that night. Two at either end on either side of the basket and two at each sideline and near the corner. One of these photographer who was a very insolent individual stationed himself directly in front of me, and instead of taking pictures of the players, stationed himself with an assistant of his - perhaps a bodyguard - directly in front of our view of the game. He snapped pictures at every move that I made that he thought apparently might help his picture business. I first remonstrated with him telling him that this was against the rule of the coaches association and asked him to move.

You will agree that these flashlights snapped in the faces of substitutes certainly render them less efficient when they go into the game because it interferes with their vision. After much annoyance to our peace of mind and to our coaching efficiency, I finally left my bench and walked over to your table at the scorers' bench and asked you kindly to remove that photographer who interfered with our vision and our peace of mind. This photographer moved perhaps four feet to our left, but still in front of our players. We were seated four feet off the sideline and this photographer worked along that margin of space which definitely obstructed our players and our view of the game as it moved up and down the court. Remember, there was a bodyguard with him which added to the obstruction of view and annoyance to our players.

Had this photographer desired a picture of me drinking water, or in any other pose that he desired, I would gladly have given it to him without him becoming obnoxious and endeavoring to do the thing he should not have done. When we played at Nebraska this past year the Omaha-Herald photographer at Lincoln desired a picture of me drinking water from a gallon jug. The Quarterback Club at Lincoln had given me the gallon jug of water at the noon luncheon, and in order to get a story out of it he wanted that picture. I gladly accommodated him by posing for the picture so that he could use it in his paper. I do not believe there is any coach but what would cooperate with newspaper men and photographers in giving them what they wanted unless they wanted some derisive thing, and in my mind this is what the chap was after when he harassed us as he did in this Oklahoma game on February 27.

It certainly seems to me, Harold, when everything is against the visiting team that these well-known rules -- certainly well-known to Bruce Drake because he helped make them -- should not be used against the visitors. Every courtesy that is possible is shown to the visitors here at Kansas. Of course, a coach can say, "Well, I am sorry, I didn't pay any attention to it", but that doesn't excuse the situation. The responsibility is upon this home coach, and he can laugh it off or shake it off lightly, but that still doesn't excuse the situation.