

August 25, 1945

Mr. Jack Leathers
35 East 68th Terrace
Kansas City, Missouri

My dear Jack:

I have had conversation with Mel Bishop regarding you. This morning I received a letter from him saying that you are planning to enroll in Baker this Fall, but you expect to be drafted the later part of November.

It so happens that I am Secretary of the Selective Service Board, and all eighteen year olds are apt to be taken about six weeks after their pre-induction physical examination (if they pass). Congress is the only outfit that can thwart this move and I am not sure what exactly will be their attitude. There is a move on foot to return most of the men who have been in active service quite some time. Congress may knock the eighteen year old draft law out, but that is always problematical. You have a chance, of course, of getting in the Navy even though you wait until you are drafted. They do not promise you, but the odds are fairly good. However, if you join the Navy, you might get in some branch that would be for one year only.

I should like to see you enter the University of Kansas. Mel Bishop recommends you very highly as an A-1 boy who can be depended upon. I can give you all the work you desire at fifty cents per hour. We have a large Navy contingent here and none of them are allowed to accept any extra money for work. Therefore, there is much work for civilians who actually want to work.

Your tuition at the University would not amount to as much as your tuition at a denominational school. I formerly coached at Baker University about thirty-seven years ago. Then, I went to the State Teachers College at Warrensburg, Missouri, for seven years, and then came here as Director of Athletics, where I have been for twenty-seven years.

I should be glad to have you give me a ring, and reverse the call, and, if you are interested, I should be glad to talk with you and your mother.

Won't you let me hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

Forrest C. Allen
Director, Physical Education
Varsity Basketball Coach

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