

November 30, 1940

Major John L. Griffith
Commissioner of Athletics
Hotel Sherman
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Major Griffith;

I have been doing a ^{great} deal of thinking since I have returned from Chicago where you were very kind to me in having me as your guest at the Whiting Hall dinner, and also giving me audience ~~and time~~ from your administrative life many valuable moments.

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When we had our conference regarding the income and disbursement of the N. C. A. A. basketball fund, you asked me a question: "Do you think all the boys will be satisfied with this distribution?" It would have been a long story and your time was too valuable at that moment for the explanation. However, I am writing you this letter in the hope that you can take it home where you can prop your feet up, rest in an easy chair, and read it, or part of it, and if it becomes too fatiguing or uninteresting, just drop it in the waste basket to your right.

National Collegiate Athletic Assn.

and I

most efficient

May I give you a little history. In the beginning ~~John~~ Harold Olsen and John Burr had many conferences. First, we were desirous of seeing that the N. C. A. A. had the finest and the best basketball teams under the finest, cleanest and best auspices that it could have. Frankly, the money consideration was ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{primary} ~~primary~~. Of course, we wanted to make money, but we did not want the promoters to take the ball away from us. We felt as if the colleges were the ones making the money and the control should be under collegel administration. Knowing that the N. C. A. A. had always stood for this sort of administration, we were happy indeed to work definitely upon these lines.

would be possible consideration

Regarding our own collegiate attraction

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loss

After the first N. C. A. A. basketball tournament had lost \$2500 and the executive committee underwrote the expenses, we felt ~~our~~ responsibilities. ~~It~~ It was up to all of us to not only replace that money, but to return a sizable sum to show the committee that we were appreciative as well as determined to reciprocate the confidence of the executive committee.

at San Fran Phil. + Chicago

in order

I said, "You give me this tournament in Kansas City and I will not only pay back the deficit, but we will make some money." We then started definitely upon a comparative program of retrenchment. First, I worked with the National Coaches Association to the point that one dollar out of each membership should go for a ticket at the final tournament. Inasmuch as each coach paid \$5.00, it was our feeling that \$1.00 going toward a \$1.60 ticket would be a gesture

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aggressive admission