

COPY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
Department of Physical Education and Athletics  
LINCOLN

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Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Department of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

My dear Dr. Allen:

In reply to your inquiry of the 23rd, will say that we have not as yet - and probably will not - greatly modify our physical education program because of the war.

My philosophy of physical education needs has always been that high physical efficiency is very important in peacetime as well as in war and therefore we have not modified our program to conform with the modern trends to the same extent that a great many other institutions have and, consequently, our program without modification conforms pretty well to the war emergency demand. To make clear just what I mean, I take the liberty to quote from some material which Nelson Metcalf of the University of Chicago is putting before the students of that institution. He writes:

"For twenty years school and college physical education has been geared for peace. Emphasis has been centered largely upon social outcomes, recreational values, and the developing of interest and skill in leisure time play activities useful throughout life. In time of war physical education, like all education, must change its direction. It must be geared for war."

I think Metcalf's statement does indicate pretty well the modern trend in many of our colleges and universities, but I believe, in contrast to the aims he mentions, our program is pretty well geared for war. We are modifying our program to some extent and we are particularly putting on a pretty vigorous campaign to try to encourage a much larger percent of our students to avail themselves of the opportunities we offer to develop physical fitness, etc. Specifically, some of the minor changes we are making in our courses include the stressing of very vigorous calisthenics work and gymnastic apparatus work to try to develop increased muscular strength and agility. In our wrestling, we plan shortly to include some Judo (Jui-jit-su) and also quite a considerable amount of the work on bone-breaking holds and other forms of wrestling that are barred in competition, but which may be of value in war. We are also planning to include in our swimming classes instruction in swimming particularly in full clothing and even getting military equipment from the Military Department to teach swimming in full military uniform with pack, gun, etc. We are urging the students to participate particularly in those activities