

Jan. 8, 1941

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the National Defense Program, college men and organizations all over the country voiced their desire to help in the preparedness of the Nation by a larger physical education program. After the football season the Big-Six faculty representatives and athletic directors emphasized their willingness to cooperate in this venture. During the Christmas meeting in New York the National Collegiate Athletic Association reemphasized it.

The action of the faculty representatives and athletic directors of the Big-Six Conference in cutting the basketball squads to ten men for travel and home games seems not only discriminatory but paradoxical. In football 33 men is the limit; in basketball 10 men. Three times as many men that comprise a football team are taken on a trip while but two times as many basketball men are permitted to go on trips.

In the Mayo Clinic's research at Rochester, it has been discovered that the peak of fatality after operations occurred during the months of January and February, owing to the fact that the sun's rays are the shortest at that time and the vitality of the individual the lowest. Flu and the common cold have taken a great toll and have weakened the individual beyond resistance.

Flu runs rampant all through the basketball season, weakening the players' heart action and subjecting them to strain in addition to the vigorous game of basketball; therefore, it is necessary that the coach substitute frequently to conserve the health and strength of the boys. With this limit on the number of players there are not enough men on the squad to do the job satisfactorily. Not only is it discriminatory but it is paradoxical when our athletic leaders say to the Nation that they desire to increase the number of participants, when by counteraction they decrease the number of participants.

The Big-Six faculty representatives and athletic directors further went on record by saying that in case of a tied championship, the like of which happened last year when Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas ended in a triple tie, the best offensive and defensive record of the team will be taken into account and no actual play-off will be necessary.

By this rule they will force the coach to play already fatigued players for the sake of percentage, when the game is already actually won or lost. Under the old plan, a fresh substitute on the bench could get his reward for his many hours of patient practice by getting into the game. But under the present plan of comparing the best offensive and defensive record of the teams, then there is nothing for the coach to do but to continue in the game the players who can make the best record. This of course applies only when there is a tied championship, but from the time that the season starts until it finishes, the coach will be laboring under the feeling that he has an opportunity to win and therefore he will not play his substitutes who might deserve to get into the game but who might allow the opponents a percentage advantage.

Coach George Edwards of Missouri states that his faculty representative informed him that but ten men could be suited up at home and therefore eligible to play in the home game. The only hope that many players had was to get into a home game that was already won or lost, and if this rule is put into effect than it will naturally discourage the players who have come out for practice in the hope that they