

October 28, 1942.

Professor A. J. Mix,
University of Kansas.

Dear Dr. Mix:

My secretary, Mrs. Hulteen, informed me that you called this morning and that you were quite upset regarding the length of the excessive absence list. There were some errors because two or three of the boys reported for excessive absences were in R.O.T.C. Mrs. Hulteen stated that you gave her no chance to explain our situation.

I am sorry that I was not here because if I had been, this is what I would have said to you. "I am not apologizing at all for any of these errors, because we were faced with an insurmountable task. In fact, I marvel that we have done as well under the conditions. This job was given us at the eleventh hour with no alternatives. We had no equipment, an under-staffed faculty personnel, a green leaders' corps, a gymnasium capable of handling five hundred men, and inadequate facilities - every one of them - and we were utterly unable to get any University carpenters or additional help to put on this job. It was impossible to hire clerical help and we were in a shut-off cubby hole partitioned from the Athletic Office with not a chance to do anything about it."

I appealed to Mr. Nichols for an auxiliary basket and check room downstairs. Mr. Nichols stated that the Navy had all the carpenters engaged from now until doomsday. We called in Mr. Doll Davidson, the stadium grounds-keeper, and had him erect a makeshift enclosure. Mrs. Hulteen has been working double time with inexperienced help and most of the help impossible to get except in broken shifts for this clerical work. I went to Mr. Nichols and asked him to look the situation over and give us some relief because I told him that it was an impossible situation and it was bound to break down more than ever unless we got some relief. The physical education offices are so separated that it is impossible for Mrs. Hulteen to supervise the work of these girls checking the attendance.

I am not blaming Mr. Nichols. He, like you and I, has been swamped and I know that he is doing the best he can. Consequently, I am not offering any complaints. We are just trying to do the best we can under an impossible situation.

I am sure, Dr. Mix, that your imagination would doubtless lead you to the conclusion that we had appealed to the Chancellor's Office for this help that I have told you about. When you appeal to the Chancellor's Office you may get additional clerical help, but when we appealed to the Chancellor's Office for additional space to be built