

May 4, 1942.

Mr. William H. Shannon,
c/o Supervisory Cost Inspector's Office,
U. S. Navy,
City Dock, Pier #3,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Friend William H.:

I know you must have some rank but you are too modest to put it on paper. You have always been that way.

I was most pleased to have your wonderful letter of the 3rd ultimo, and do not think that I have not appreciated the same. The fact of the matter is, I have been covered up with detailed and administrative work. Dr. Elbel left about the middle of March, and instead of our basketball season ending at the normal time we were picked to represent the Big Six because we tied with Oklahoma but our offensive-defensive ratio was better, so we were the Big Six representative. Then we played Oklahoma A. & M. for the right to represent the Fifth District, which is the Missouri Valley area, and we succeeded in defeating them in a close game in Kansas City. Then we met Colorado on March 20 and lost to them by two points, and Stanford defeated Rice. Those were the four teams in the Western N.C.A.A. play-off. The next night Stanford defeated Colorado by about 11 points, and we defeated Rice by 2 points, 55-53.

During all that time and during basketball season my work was accumulating, and instead of being made easier it became heavier because I was appointed to several faculty committees in addition to my regular appointments. And taking over two of Dr. Elbel's teaching subjects really sunk me!

Now, so much for that alibi. I trust that you will accept it as a good one.

I have followed your activities from Washington with your training on down to Miami, and I know how very much you would like to get into a more active assignment. But undoubtedly you are doing a great job there. It is a fine thing to get into the Army or Navy service and see with what dispatch things are executed. We do come to appreciate efficiency and gentility which we find among the officers.

I would enjoy very much sitting down and chewing the fat with you, and if I have an opportunity to be down south I will certainly make it a point to see if I cannot contact you in Miami. Your admonition for me not to mention your activities in too great detail has caused me to be rather secretive. Uncle Sam wants to give out as little information