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Dear Mr. Allen:

I have been out of the office a couple of weeks and consequently the answer to your letter of July 6th has been delayed.

I believe the experimentation with backboards should be along the line of reduction in size and possible change in shape. If changes are made I suppose the purposes would be:

1. Simplification of construction and consequently reduction in cost of construction through eliminating the necessity for some of the complicated bridgework that is now necessary.
2. Lessening the amount of obstruction in vision from the ends of the court.
3. The increasing of the possibility for play behind the plane of the backboard.

I think it probable that almost anyone would agree that these objectives are desirable. It remains to be determined whether disadvantages are enough to outweigh the value of these objectives. The only way conclusions can be reached is through the charting of that portion of the backboard which is actually used. We might direct our attention to two possibilities.

1. The elimination of as much of the lower part of the backboard as can be taken away without ruining the support for the basket. At least eight inches could be taken from the bottom and still leave room for a base support and if a small square were to be left in the center at the bottom of the board, more than eight inches could be eliminated. We might start with eight inches. Along with this change we could probably cut off at least ten inches from all the other edges of the board. This would reduce the size by approximately ten square feet.

2. The second possibility would be in connection with change in shape as well as reduction in size. The boards might be changed to a fan shape or to a semi-circle. This could be done by using a spot directly behind the ring as the center and drawing the major arc of a circle with a radius of