

December 22, 1941

Dean Paul B. Lawson,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Lawson:

I have enjoyed my friendship with you. We do not always hit it off together, but I feel sure that each respects the opinion and judgment of the other.

There are so many men and women along the highways of life who are simply consumers. They never seem to have an original thought and never seem to do anything excepting to consume a part of the surplus. There are others like yourself who are always keenly alert to everything that is going on and are concerned with it.

It is my opinion that no member of the Board of Education in Lawrence, through the years, vitalized the educational work of the city as much as you did during the years of your service.

It rather shocks me when I think how lax some things have become in our educational system. We have long fooled ourselves into believing that education was something that had to do with big buildings instead of with big men. The little old school houses of the days of Noah and Daniel Webster turned out some men who still stand through the years as great leaders; at the same time, every school in America in the past twenty-five years has turned out graduates who have left mighty little impress on the affairs of life.

I will wind up as I began, by thanking you for your letter and expressing my satisfaction in knowing you.

Cordially yours,

WCS:JM