

December 21, 1950

Mr. W. C. Coleman
The Coleman Company, Inc.
Wichita 1, Kansas

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I have your recent letter asking me to serve on the Ottawa University development committee.

It has seemed to me that with the work done by religious workers in the state schools, church schools are no longer as essential as they were fifty or seventy-five years ago. In the early days the churches had academies to give the sort of education that students now get in the high schools. The work done by religious colleges is probably better done, from the standpoint of scientific and general training, at the state supported schools than at the smaller schools.

Many years ago I was elected to the board of Ottawa University and served for one year, but stated that I thought it was unwise to put a man on the board whose children had all attended the state university.

As you know, I was long a member of the Kansas Baptist Convention, and it is my honest opinion that the Baptist work in Kansas has been handicapped by the amount of money we have spent on Ottawa and the institution at Kansas City. We have been generous in the support of these schools and have usually been niggardly in the development of new churches or the support of struggling churches within the state. We did not have money enough to do both and the big schools were supported while the smaller churches suffered.

I was one of those influential in dividing the state into districts with a district superintendent whose duty it was to aid and encourage the struggling churches in his district.

You have had a wider experience than I have in the matter of church schools and your judgment has been so good in other matters that it rightfully commands attention. I