

June 20, 1945

Honorable William Freeman
Forsyth, Georgia

My Dear Bill:

Your committee report about our Evening School is certainly appreciated by us, and I am sure it will do much to further the education of thousands of young men and young women gathered here from more than six hundred Georgia high schools every year in their effort to work their way through college. So far, the report has had this effect:

I knew it would take a long time after the war to complete a new building, and, therefore, with other friends, I looked around in Atlanta for some available space that we might convert to our use so that we might serve the several thousand G. I. boys promised us by the Veterans Administration, together with the many now enrolled from high schools over Georgia. We found that the Bolling-Jones Building, as well as the Ivy Street Garage, is fireproof, with elevator service, and that it has more than 180,000 square feet of space, whereas our present building has an inadequate 35,000 square feet. The Ivy Street building cost \$600,000 to build, and it can be bought for less than half that amount. We have already had our present building appraised by a professional appraiser at \$150,000, although it cost the State of Georgia through the years only \$60,000. We can easily liquidate the Ivy Street building with the sale of this and additional income from that building.

All this information we had placed before the Board of Regents at their meeting on Sunday, June 10, and I am told they favorably considered the matter for more than an hour and passed a resolution to ask the Governor for permission to make the deal provided he accepted your committee report. Cason Callaway was so enthusiastic about the proposition and the work done by this institution, that he wanted to go immediately to the Governor, but they thought it best to follow the regular procedure, and, so far, Doctor Sanford has, for one reason or another, not seen Ellis Arnall about the matter. However, I saw the Governor and ploughed up the ground some, as did Erle Cocke.

I am attaching a letter from Captain F. A. Sams, State Director of Veterans' Education, and Pat Kelly, Veterans' Employment Representative for Georgia, of the War Manpower Commission. They urge action on a new building immediately.

I am writing you this information to show you how appreciative we are of the work you did, and to let you know how things are progressing so that you may be able to add whatever you can from the committee standpoint whenever you see the Governor.

Please be assured I am happy whenever I hear of the continued good will of one of my Mercer men.

Cordially yours,

GEORGE M. SPARKS,
Director

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