

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
CLINTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June 16, 1956

Dr. Harry K. Holland, Chairman
Board of Trustees of Presbyterian College
606 Church Street
Marietta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Holland:

Since a number of people have taken in hand the task of explaining the reasons for my leaving Presbyterian College, I wish to make it a matter of record that my resignation—tendered with regret and with affection for the College—is definitely in protest against the policies of the school over a period of years—policies which I as a Christian cannot conscientiously support or endorse by my continued presence. In August, 1955, I submitted to the President in writing the list of proposals attached to this letter. Since he thought it unwise to adopt most of these proposals in full, I requested that I be permitted to withdraw from the College immediately. Dr. Brown was unwilling to grant the requested release so late in the summer. This being the case, he was told at that time that my official connection with the College would terminate with the end of the 1955-56 school year.

For several years I have attempted to the best of my ability to correct some of the situations referred to in the list of attached proposals. Since I have asked for the help and cooperation of Trustees, Faculty and students and have received an unsatisfactory response, and since I am clearly the man out of step, I believe that I have no course but to withdraw.

It should be very definitely understood that this is in no way a personal quarrel with the members of the College Administration with whom my associations have been cordial and pleasant even though we have not always agreed on policies. The College President has been in many ways a father to me; his personal interest, help and cooperation have exceeded any reasonable expectation and I have come to appreciate indeed his unusual abilities. I am mindful of the significant contribution the College continues to make to the Church, and I have rejoiced in the far more satisfactory admissions policies carried out by Mr. G. Edward Campbell as Registrar—it has been several years now since we have heard the remark: "Well, I tried to get into every school in South Carolina and P. C. was the only one that would have me."

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But while I do appreciate the progress the College has made in recent years, I cannot escape the conviction that we must face the obvious fact that our program of subsidized athletics, social fraternities and the toleration of godlessness over a period of years is responsible for attracting such large numbers of profligates, gamblers, cheaters, drunkards, and, in general, so many of the "pool hall and tavern gang" who have given us such a bad reputation with the people of Clinton and with the Deans of Women at our sister colleges.

While I would not have objected to social fraternities five years ago (I knew little about them and supposed that they were at least respectable organizations), my experiences as Dean of Students have convinced me that the aims and practices of the social fraternities are not compatible with the Christian pattern of life. The confessions of fraternity men, Student Council trial records, vital statistics pertaining to marriages and births, and other indisputable evidence convince me that far too many students learn to drink, gamble and practice immorality under fraternity auspices and that many more lose their ideals and sense of mission in life through fraternity associations. (In a 1954 survey 61% of the students admitted drinking and 23% of this group indicated that they began drinking here—this, of course, was not a survey of fraternity men as such). The after-dance parties which commonly last until 3:00 to 5:00 A. M. are a source of embarrassment to the College. Control of such affairs is most difficult when the College does not recognize the dances and when the Inter-Fraternity Council flatly refuses to cooperate even in the matter of prohibiting their members from keeping dates, unchaperoned, in motels on dance week-ends. One fraternity man said frankly a few weeks ago: "Oh, if I lived like a Christian they'd throw me out." In fairness, however, it should be added that one of the fraternity groups has been far more satisfactory than the others.

One of the most disturbing practices at Presbyterian College is that of importing scholarship athletes whose chief interest in college is obtaining a degree and a commission and who are often absolutely unwilling to conform to the letter or the spirit of college regulations. These men comprise some 14% of the student body, yet they are, in my opinion, responsible for half of the disciplinary problems on the campus. In the current "Discipline" file there are records of 19 of these athletes who are charged with 22 serious offenses—7 cases of vandalism, 2 cases of drunkenness and disorder, 2 cases of adultery, 7 cases of cheating, 1 case of stealing, 1 case of intimidation of a Student Council member, 1 case of lying to a College official and 1 case of falsification

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of excuses. (Three of the men here referred to did not receive athletic scholarships directly from the college for one reason or another). By comparison, in the same folder there are only 19 such cases against all other students combined.

To me one of the worst features of the entire business is that these men (and in years past their profane coaches) are hired with the offerings dedicated on Sunday mornings in worship. Small wonder that Presbyterian ministers are saying with regret: "I would really like to support Presbyterian College but I simply cannot do it in good conscience." Somehow I have difficulty in imagining that the Apostle Paul diverted a hundred thousand dollars from the Jerusalem famine offering to get javelin throwers from the Germans for his track team at Philippi or that he ever said: "You know, in this first century with its Greek influence you simply cannot have a school without track meets and John has such wonderful distance runners at Ephesus that he is beginning to draw some of our better students from Macedonia."

The reports circulated from time to time that the athletic program costs only about \$9,000 in excess of gifts designated for that purpose, that the actual monetary cost is only \$16,608.85, or that the athletic program netted the College \$25,000 in 1954 (I gasped when I heard a trustee tell a group of ministers that one) are too outrageously false to deserve an answer. If the salaries of six coaches can be charged to instruction then book-keeping has no meaning. It costs an enormous sum to feed, house and provide additional instructors needed to teach these men, etc. If these sixty or seventy athletes who are given substantial scholarships can actually be educated for a few thousand dollars a year, then the cost of room, board and tuition should be promptly reduced by five or six hundred dollars per student per year. Let it not be said that no other students were available to take the place of these scholarship athletes—college officials have been saying for years that they were turning down applications by the hundred.

Perhaps I should add that I am heartily in favor of bona fide amateur athletics; I have had some experience as a coach in high school; I personally received greater benefits from the athletic program at Hampden-Sydney than from almost any other feature of college life. My unfavorable attitude toward subsidized athletics arises only out of my experiences with the athletes at Presbyterian College. It should also be made perfectly clear that no criticism is here implied of our present coaching staff. Mr. Crutchfield, it seems to me, has done us a great service in demonstrating that when the finest coach available is put in charge of recruiting students on the basis of athletic ability, the

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recruits as a group are still unwilling or unable to fit into the program of a Church College. Let me add, however, that several of the Freshman and Sophomore athletes are most satisfactory students.

In summary, I am convinced that this intolerable situation continues to exist because the Trustees as a group and some Faculty members and Alumni are unwilling to change it, or, in some instances, even to permit it to be changed. We have no athletic program to speak of for our bona fide students—not even a Freshman team in football; we continue to lose some of our best Faculty members because of the situations indicated, and the conduct of our students in general is a disgrace to the name "Presbyterian"; life in the dormitories does not even compare favorably with that in Army barracks.

It should also be made clear that some six or seven members of the Faculty have cooperated heartily in trying to improve the general situation, but a much larger number have simply been apathetic and several have been quite hostile.

I assure you, Dr. Holland, that while I have written to you quite frankly, I have been careful in my public and private statements about the College. I would like very much to see P. C. become a truly Christian College in all areas of its activity and if I may be of service to that end you may expect my cooperation to the fullest extent.

With every good wish to you personally and to the College,
I remain

Respectfully yours

George A. Anderson
Dean of Students and Professor
of Bible, Resigned

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