December 10, 1923

Dear Mr. Ludington:

I feel that I wish to explain to you and a few other friends just how it has occurred that in the midsummer the information was given out from this office that we needed only a relatively small amount of money to complete our campaign and that some months later we have made statements which seemed inconsistent with the midsummer information.

Before the expiration of the first time limit set by Mr. and Mrs. Boyd on July 1st I had no way of knowing whether it would be permissible to include certain pledges and gifts, especially an appropriation made by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial to strengthen the group of the social sciences at the University. Since the total amount of money secured at that time, including these pledges and the appropriation, aggregated decidedly more than the entire amount sought in the campaign and since I was obliged to make a final appeal in the effort to meet the Boyd conditions by July 1st, I made my statement on the assumption that a certain proportion of these questionable pledges could be included as helping to meet the conditions. On this basis I estimated what we still needed to secure. My statement was made very sincerely although I regretted not having the opportunity to secure an authoritative decision.

Mr. Boyd then decided without any actual conference that he would extend the time limit to September 15th. A final decision as to the classification of the pledges and the appropriation referred to above was not reached until September. It was then decided that neither the appropriation nor these particular pledges could be counted as meeting the conditions involved. It thus became necessary for the campaign office to correct the previous estimate and to secure a much larger amount of money than we had supposed in midsummer would be necessary.

On the whole I think the decision to exclude the pledges and the appropriation referred to was a wise one since the campaign was

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