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Western University
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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

March 27, 1926.

Governor Ben S. Paulen,
Topeka, Kansas.

His Excellency: Dear Governor:

After tenderest and kindest regards to you and your wife this comes to thank you both for your visit and especially to thank you for the great inspiration left with out faculty and student body. We endeavored to do what we could to make your visit pleasant as well as profitable and have heard many favorable comments on same since.

I fully believe if you and your wife could look in upon my people just a little more often, not necessarily here, but in other places, you could get anything you wanted within the powers of giving. I am positive you will have the service of my Bishop and in fact everyone who heard you when you were here.

I am glad you had the opportunity when you were here of making a personal inspection. I regret exceedingly that you did not have the chance to go through our books for I am confronting that that I have had to contend with here since the former administration and that is a deficit in our Fee Account. Dr. Huffman and the Board of Administration very carefully went over this during their last visit. In short under the former administration the office of school extension worker was created, also the position of the helper in the boiler room. This year as you know Judge Guy's salary comes out in part of my Fees.

For seven or eight years I have depended upon Fees to the extent of \$4,500 to help out my straight salaried list of teachers, then from Fees I am carrying eight employees. Since the fire my fees have never been sufficient. I am even very limited in room for housing our young men students. I have labored under a deficit each year for the past three years, but this deficit has always been covered in my Fees by putting helpers and teachers carried out of Fees to Salary Appropriation and when Salary Appropriation was exhausted just before the close of the fiscal year we would put them on Maintenance Fund. This was always ordered by the Board of Administration, never by myself. It was done last year and I was helped at one time last year to the extent of ten thousand dollars for coal that was diverted to use in my Fee Account; paying for my band and orchestra instruments over \$3,000 and the balance being used to pay

the grocer, the butcher and vegetable commission man.

Some of your present Board Members do not seem to find a record of same in Topeka and another says that your present auditor under no conditions will permit any changes to be made from coal to fees or fees to maintenance. It seems strange, Governor, that this has been done in all former years even with a politically mixed administration and now we are all friends to a common and needy cause in authority that at least some relief cannot be granted. For if it is as was intimated to us at the meeting I must be frank in saying I do not see how we are to complete the remainder of the year which would of course be a calamity that we would never out-live.

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I did not make mention of this to you during your visit to us for it had been gone over thoroughly by the Board of Administration and Mr. Shrack on Tuesday and I looked wholly to Dr. Huffman, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Peach as you had told me, but as stated by Mr. Shrack that the state auditor would not do as formerly had been done, I deemed it best to write you as Governor and for that reason only as one in higher authority to assist in this financial difficulty.

Dr. Huffman has already been instrumental in me receiving \$6500 to assist with our coal without which assistance we could not have lived at all for our new heating plant takes from ten to fifteen tons daily against the old plant which took only from three to five tons but you know, Governor, we have a great central heating plant. Dr. Huffman told me privately that he thought he could secure \$7,000 more to help with our coal. If this is done which I believe he will do immediately a small part of it if used for fees will relieve me of this financial difficulty and great load under which I am struggling here with so many poor and eager young men and women for an education, many of whom are compelled to work out their board account.

Again thanking you for your visit and hoping you understand just the predicament we are in here, I am

Very respectfully

F. J. Peck, Pres.

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