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July 25, 1936

His Excellency Guy B. Park  
Governor of the State of Missouri  
State Capitol  
Jefferson City, Missouri

My dear Governor:

As you now are nearing the end of your term as one of the finest Governors in Missouri history, I take this liberty to write you concerning Lincoln University. You are not permitted by law to succeed yourself as Governor and you are not now a candidate for any office. Under these circumstances, therefore, this letter can have no political significance. It is but a frank expression to you concerning Lincoln University.

I first wish to say to you, Governor, that the remarkable progress that this institution has made is due, in a large part, to the fact that you as chief executive gave to the school every possible cooperation. Those who recall that four years ago you stated you wished to see our educational institutions run without political spoliation now look with deep satisfaction upon the excellent way in which you have carried out this promise. Lincoln University, along with the rest of the institutions, shared the blessings of that policy and today stands as one of the really fine schools of the country.

The Negroes of Missouri and of the country, Governor, are very pleased I am sure to sincerely compliment and thank you for the attitude you have assumed toward this school. Not once have you ever instructed or even requested the Board of Curators or Administration to make any appointment or participate in any political affairs, now have you ever attempted to advise or direct policies of this institution. On the

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other hand, every time a request for a budget for Lincoln has been presented to you your whole-hearted backing has been immediately given to it. Through this courageous and fair treatment of Lincoln University more money was appropriated by the people of the State of Missouri for its support than ever in history.

When you became Governor of Missouri, Lincoln University was a liberal arts college with a high school department accredited by the North Central Association. Since that time the college department has become fully accredited by this outstanding rating agency; Anderson M. Sweish Hall and the Dining Hall have been dedicated; and two other new buildings are rapidly nearing completion; valuable land adjacent to the Campus of the University, and belonging to the State of Missouri, has been transferred to the University in anticipation of the increased service to the people of the State and Nation; the Dalton Vocational School, at Dalton, Missouri, and under the Board of Curators of Lincoln University, has again been started on the road to real service and is a thriving institution; the faculty of Lincoln University has been immeasurably strengthened; the student body has improved in type and quality of student and has vastly increased in numbers; the Works Progress Administration and CWA have been so impressed with the institution as to give it, through various projects, more than \$125,000.00.

It is obvious, Governor Park, that such progress could not have been possible unless you, in dealing with this school and its problems, had stood on very high ground and had taken the attitude that the primary object of our educational institutions cannot fully be carried out unless those institutions have been kept free of political influence. I think it is no exaggeration to say, Mr. Governor, that in respect to the fine attitude that you as chief executive of this state have taken toward this school you have no critics.

Believe me, with every good wish to you and your family, I am

Respectfully yours,

Joseph L. McLemore

Curator of Lincoln University