

November 15th, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Harvey:

As you perhaps gathered from the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board, the Trustees have determined that Princeton must have a new Library promptly. They are realizing that our failure to produce on this project over a period now running to fifteen years is becoming a disgrace to the University and a reflection on the Board itself.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board the latter part of this week will be devoted primarily to assignment of names for solicitation by members of the Board and to the effort to secure a contribution to the Library from each member of the Board, so that we shall not be approaching outsiders without one hundred per cent of the Board members having made their contributions.

You will recall certain conversations we had about the Library some time ago. They were of a most confidential nature and the Trustees do not know anything about them. In any case I want to have a talk with you rather than to have some other member of the Executive Committee discuss the matter with you. The first time you are in these parts would it be possible for us to get together. I could come to New York, although I would enjoy it more if you would stop off here and spend a night with me at Prospect.

I don't think that any explanation of this letter is needed in connection with your recent induction as a Trustee. You know as well as I do that entirely other considerations moved the Board to your unanimous election. I really am ashamed to mention the matter and would not except that it clears my conscience to do so.

Faithfully yours,

Mr. Harvey S. Firestone, Jr.,
50 Twin Oaks Road,
Akron, Ohio.