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Letter to Professor Maurice Mulvania from

N.E. Fitzgerald
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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June 7, 1923.

Professor Maurice Mulvania,
Morrill Hall.

Dear Professor Mulvania:

I am writing this letter regarding the unfortunate news article appearing in the Knoxville News on June 1st, and in the Journal and Tribune on June 2nd, which makes use of a large number of names of members of the Faculty of the University of Tennessee, in connection with a so-called "constitution" for the University.

When you came to my office some weeks ago asking for suggestions for the betterment of the University, it was understood by me that you came with the full approval of the President, so I had typewritten six minor suggestions which I thought might be of service. Fortunately, I kept a copy of these and with one exception I incorporated the same suggestions in my annual report to the Dean of the College of Agriculture, a copy of which I sent to the President and which had reached him before the articles above mentioned had appeared. I consider it extremely unfortunate that anyone has been so indiscreet as to give to the press anything at all regarding a matter of this kind. So far as I am personally concerned I resent most deeply being implicated in any sort of radical movement such as the one reported in the papers mentioned above, because I have never given out a statement or suggestion which would tend to make anyone believe that a reorganization of the administration of the University from the Trustees down to the students is necessary. In fact the thing mentioned has never been given any consideration by me. Furthermore, contrary to the suggestion in the News, I have never attended any meeting where an expression was made which would cause anyone to believe that thirty-one members of the University Faculty were in accord with the spirit of such a movement. I should say further also that not a single suggestion given in the news articles mentioned above was incorporated in the list I gave you.

I feel that a great injustice has been done not only to the University but to those individuals of us who were misled and given undue publicity by some indiscreet person. I therefore call on you as the one who originated the survey for suggestions to also lead those of us who are mentioned in the list of thirty-one into finding the person or persons responsible for this unfortunate publicity in order that an explanation may be made.

I am sending a copy of this letter to President Morgan and to Vice-Dean "Illson in order that they may further know my attitude towards such tendencies.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Professor, Agricultural Education.