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WASHINGTON

October 24, 1918

President J. G. Hibben
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear President Hibben

I have just replied by telegraph to your letter of October 19, which has evidently been somewhat delayed in reaching me. I need hardly say that I fully appreciate the financial and other difficulties that are presented to the colleges by the early withdrawal of a considerable number of students, and I use every effort to present the views of the colleges to the military authorities. Doubtless, however, we all recognize that in the present emergency military needs must be the paramount consideration and with my knowledge of those needs, I see that the military authorities were practically forced to do what they have done.

Every effort will be made to replace the men who have been withdrawn as soon as suitable material for replacement can be discovered. It seems to be probable that some lowering of entrance standards will be forced upon us, but we must first see what we can get with the present requirements before welcoming a change. The colleges from which men have been withdrawn are asked to make every effort to recruit new men to make good the deficiency.

I have very strongly protested against the proposal to withdraw men regularly from college every month. The conditions that prevail now and will prevail until the first of January are I hope quite abnormal. The military authorities have assured me that they appreciate the difficulties that their policy has presented to the colleges

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and serious effort will be made to overcome these difficulties. It seems to me probable that the army will need a supply of officers more frequently than once a quarter, and that some plan of "staggering" the terms of the various colleges so that the quarterly periods end in different months for different groups may be the best solution of the difficulty. I shall be glad of course to have your judgment on this as on any other matter affecting the welfare of the S. A. T. C.

Yours very truly

Richard M. McClain

Educational Director
Collegiate Section

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