

July 14, 1936.

Prof. O. Glenn Paxon,
Republican National Committee,
Railway Exchange Building,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Glenn:

I have your letter of July 9. I am very distressed to know that you should feel you should sever your connections with the Law School. I am equally distressed to have you say that your first-year Marketing course was removed from the first year without prior notice to you.

I was not a member of the Curriculum Committee; nor did I attend any of the faculty meetings at which this was discussed; nor did I sit in with the Curriculum Committee on its deliberations of the matter. I heard throughout the Spring that consideration was being given to a change by substituting a second or third year course in Marketing. I had assumed all along that you were being consulted and advised of these plans; I was greatly surprised and shocked when you said that you were not.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider the whole matter of severance of your relations with the Law School. As I told you here in Washington this Spring, I had always thought of you as an integral part of law-business program at Yale. Your legal training plus your rich business experience make you invaluable for the development of this program.

Political affiliations obviously have no place in the formulation of an educational program. The class-room is not, and under no circumstances should be, a place to conduct a political campaign. Obviously, current legal problems cannot be discussed without getting into questions that are tied in, to some extent, with current political issues. But intellectual integrity cannot give way to campaign enthusiasms when we are talking in terms of an educational program. You and I probably (although on this I am not sure) would heartily disagree on a number of important political developments. Nevertheless, I am confident that you and I could work happily together in an educational venture. George Bates and I have collaborated in my course in Finance for a period of three or four years. We have also written a lot together, as you know. I have never debated political issues with George Bates, but I suspect that he and I would have as much hearty disagreement on some things in that domain as would you and I. Nevertheless, that factor has at no time interfered with our congenial relations and with our honest intellectual endeavors in the field of corporation finance.

Accordingly, when I visualize a law-business program at Yale I do not conceive of it as being either left-wing or right-wing in my political sense. I think we should look for men of intellectual integrity and men of great intellectual capacity. I think it would be a mistake to lead that course with men whose minds are closed and who have special interests to serve. For example, I think it would be a mistake in Corporation Finance to have nothing but men with Wall Street experience and view-points. But that objection would apply equally to such men whatever their political affiliations. My opposition to having that type predominate is based on the fact that the Corporation Finance which would be taught would be too much of the trade school type.

So in conclusion, let me say, Glenn, that I sincerely hope you will reconsider. I would like very much to see you develop some course in the Law School. I appreciate the fact that your feelings and sense of propriety have been injured and violated. But looking at the thing from a long-range point of view, I think there is a real place in the School for a course of the kind you have developed. I think there are certain advantages in not being in the first year. All of my courses, which certainly are not more mature or advanced than yours, are in the second and third years. I really think that the proper place for development of the law-business courses is in the second and third years. There is a lot to be said for the theory of teaching in the first year the cut and dried conventional law course. So let us wipe the slate clean and see if we can get a new, running start in this whole program.

In order that the various interested parties may be fully apprised of my position in this matter, I am likewise sending copies of this letter to President Angell, Dean Clark and George Day. Meanwhile, I hope that sometime during the course of the summer our paths will cross so that we may explore the whole matter more fully. I will be in Washington continuously except during the month of August when I plan to take a vacation in New England.

With warm regards and best wishes, I am

Yours faithfully,

cc: Pres. Angell
Dean Clark
Geo. Day