

June 12, 1969

Dr. Raymond C. Gibson  
Professor of Education  
School of Education  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Raymond:

This is written as a follow-up to my letter of May 23 and to express again the appreciation of all who are interested in Western for your wonderful suggestion regarding President Thompson.

In addition to advising members of the Board of Regents, I took the liberty also to inform President Thompson of your comments. He was sincerely grateful for the high evaluation you made of him and was obviously flattered to be thought of in terms of the suggested title classifying him with the highly respected Chancellor Wells. I am certain Dr. Thompson will want to discuss this in detail with you at some future date.

You will be interested and also pleased when you read the enclosed report that was submitted yesterday by the Executive Committee and unanimously adopted by the Board of Regents. President Thompson had requested that he not be given any title except that of President of the College Heights Foundation. By retaining this title and expanding his leadership role in working with the Foundation, he feels he can perform more effectively and do a more meaningful job for Western.

President Thompson wanted this report sent to you without delay, and he especially wanted you to know of his gratitude. He was, in fact, overwhelmed.

With best wishes always, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dero G. Downing  
Vice President for  
Administrative Affairs

DGD/gb  
Encl.

bcc: President Thompson ✓

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

*School of Education*

EDUCATION BUILDING

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

May 22, 1969

AREA CODE 812

337-2001

Mr. Dero Downing, Vice President  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42102

Dear Dero:

President Thompson's desire to relinquish the burdens of his office came as a surprise to me as it must have been for all of you on the campus.

I write this letter to ask a favor of you. I feel that the Board of Regents should name Kelly as Chancellor of the University and President of the Foundation and let this greatest leader whom we have ever had at Western set his own pace, work at home, in Florida all winter, and in Maine in summers, if he desires--anything to keep the great builder in contact with those who follow.

Our Chancellor, Herman B Wells is worth many times his salary since he left the presidency. Kelly Thompson is one of the few men I know whose contribution to his university equals that of Chancellor Wells.

Please understand that I write as only one member of the alumni, but I know that this view is widely shared.

You may feel free to share this letter with the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Gibson  
Professor of Education

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May 23, 1969

Dr. Raymond C. Gibson  
Professor of Education  
School of Education  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Dear Raymond:

Your thoughtful letter of May 22 is acknowledged with genuine appreciation. The sentiment which is expressed must surely be shared by Westerners everywhere when we recognize the great contribution President Thompson can continue to make in a variety of leadership roles less demanding than his present position. He is truly a great one.

Ray, you continue to demonstrate friendship and loyalty which mean much to Western. Your suggestions and counsel are valued highly.

Come to see us when you can.

Sincerely yours,

Dero G. Downing  
Vice President for  
Administrative Affairs

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