

Willard, A. C.

Urbana, Illinois
May 18, 1942

President A. C. Willard
355 Administration Building

Dear President Willard,-

I have been concerned for a good many months about the establishment known as Bidwell's confectionery which is located at 619 South Wright Street, Champaign.

Over a period of years we have had numerous disciplinary cases which have originated through students who have been in Bidwell's and while there have become intoxicated. On Thursday evening, May 14, there was a serious scrap in Bidwell's in which Mr. Alex Agase, a student, and Mr. William Malloy, another student, were involved. Mr. Malloy was injured and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment, and I believe that it was only a matter of good fortune that Mr. Malloy wasn't more seriously injured or even killed.

The Bidwell establishment is supposed to be a confectionery and candy store. It has a license to sell beer and I believe that the management stays within the law in the matter of sales. I know that the Champaign police have tried hard to find a law evasion from the standpoint of the use of hard liquor and deliveries being made to Bidwell's, but without apparent success.

Off of the main room of the Bidwell establishment is a second room, not accessible directly from the street, and it is this room in which much of the trouble has originated.

If there is anything at all that we could do to have the place declared a public nuisance and closed I believe we should do it. The operators of the establishment are without conscience as to what goes on there as long as they are not hurt financially, and skate along the narrow edge of "within the law" and "it is all right if you can get away with it." We have had numerous disgraceful affairs come from there and I fear that it is inevitable that a real tragedy or major scandal will arise from the place.

Incidentally, Mr. Agase and Mr. Malloy are already under consideration by our Committee on discipline.

Sincerely,

PHT-Y