

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

3-23-42
(DATE) *Luj* ✓

W. L. BATT
DIRECTOR OF MATERIALS

March 20, 1942

Dr. Lewis Jones
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Lewis:

Will you help me plan what I am going to say to your girls on June 13 and how I am going to say it? I hate a prepared speech. It is much easier to give, but much harder to listen to, and if you don't care from the publicity point of view, I would rather talk informally from notes. Now I know that is very unlike the conventional commencement address but Bennington is an unconventional institution. Tell me frankly whether you want a prepared address and if you do, you shall have it.

Next, I would like to know what you think I ought to talk about. If the Bennington girls like red meat shall it be the war, or the fascinating subject of the part which materials play in the war, or my trip to Russia or what.

And next, how long will I be expected to stay? I have a very dear friend who lives some twenty miles away from there at Williamstown and is anxious for me to come over for a couple of days. It is probably the only vacation I am likely to get and I am thinking about taking advantage of it. When will you be ready for me to leave Bennington?

Finally, do you have an academic parade requiring me to bring a cap and gown? It is not like me to plan so far ahead in most cases, but I think it best that I do so in this instance.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Batt

W. L. Batt

