

November 5, 1930

Dear Downer:

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I wonder if you know of anybody at Columbia, or elsewhere, that would make, in your judgment, a good President for Allegheny College? We have just lost the best man that we ever had there, so it seems to me - an incurable disease. It really was a tragedy for us. And now the Committee in charge is searching over candidates and turning them down, almost as fast as they turn up. I think you know about what we would want - an all-around man - around forty, not over, I should say - vigorous - scholarly - a good mixer - familiar with modern notions of education, but conscious that there is not much suggested that has not been tried out in one form or another before. The Committee howls loudly for personality and they never will take anybody that does not "grip" them, as they say.

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The man need not be a Methodist, though it would be a little easier to put him over, if he was. In any case he would have to be liberal, not a fundamentalist.

This is a plea for help, dear Downer, and if you have anybody to suggest, do let me know.

I ought to say that I haven't the least authority on this Committee, but I haven't been sitting with it - though a member - and that I have only just been appealed to to see if I cannot find somebody more helpful than those the Committee has been examining in the last two months.

I do hope I am to see you and Sally soon. How about next Sunday - I am to be in town? Could you not come down to the Cosmopolitan Club and lunch with me?

Dear

Always faithfully

Dr. Charles Downer Huen
42 East 75th Street