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Simplified Spelling

February 7th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile
Oak Park, Ill.

My dear Sir:-

In reply to your kind letter of February 6th I would say that since meeting you I have arranged to leave the city to be gone the greater portion of the next six weeks. I should like very much indeed to be present at the banquet, but under these circumstances I am sure you will excuse me.

Yours very truly,

February 7th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Ill.

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OAK PARK OR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Feb. 5th, 1903.

Dr. Wm.R. Harper,

Pres. University of Chicago,

Chicago, Ill.

(82)

My Dear Dr. Harper:-

A week ago when I asked you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the joint reception and banquet of the Ella F. Young Club and the George Howland Club April 4th, to let the public know of your warm interest and approval of the cause of simplified spelling, you asked for a few days' time to consider it, requesting me to write to you. I hope you have found it possible to let the principals and their friends, of whom we hope to have a large number in attendance, have the pleasure of meeting you personally on that occasion, and of discharging the more important function of letting the people of the country know of your earnest respect for the problem proposed- The Duty, Ways, and Means of Simplifying our Spelling- and your desire to promote the matter along reasonable lines. I shall ask for the substance of the speeches some two weeks in advance of the time set, and have them, together with a large part of the letters I am getting from prominent persons who approve the cause, printed and distributed to the press in advance of the meeting, the matter to be released on that date. A great many will be very sorry, indeed, if you cannot be one of the speakers. Mrs. Young has consented, as was to be expected, of course. I shall have a strong representation from the Northwestern University, and I want an equally strong and large one from the University of Chicago, these two institutions being at the center of the territory which we will try to cover with circulars and other literature, based somewhat on the expressions uttered and read on the occasion referred to.

For the purpose of getting the letters would it be too much trouble to let your stenographer give me the names of members of your faculty whom you know to be friendly to the cause? I only know of Dr. Chamberlain, Dr. Dewey, Mrs. Young and Mr. Jackman. I know there are others, but I do not know their names.

Hoping that I have not asked a burdensome favor in this, and that I may receive assurance that you will endeavor to be present and make a twenty minutes' speech at the banquet, I remain

Very truly yours

E.O. Vaile

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OAK PARK or CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Feb. 9th, 1903.

Dr. Wm. R. Harper,

President, University of Chicago,

Chicago, Ill.

(89)

My Dear Dr. Harper:-

A week ago when I asked you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the joint reception and banquet of the Mills T. Young club and the George Howland Club April 6th, to let the public know of your warm interest and approval of the cause of simplified spelling, you asked for a few days' time to consider it, requesting me to write to you. I hope you have found it possible to let the principals and their friends, of whom we hope to have a large number in attendance, have the pleasure of meeting you personally on that occasion, and of discussing the more important function of letting the people of the country know of your earnest respect for the problem proposed- The Duty, Ways, and Means of Simplifying our Spelling- and your desire to promote the matter along reasonable lines. I shall ask for the substance of the speeches some two weeks in advance of the time set, and have them, together with a large part of the letters I am getting from prominent persons who approve the cause, printed and distributed to the press in advance of the meeting, the matter to be released on that date. A great many will be very sorry, indeed, if you cannot be one of the speakers. Mrs. Young has consented, as was to be expected, of course. I shall have a strong representation from the Northwestern University, and I want an equally strong and large one from the University of Chicago. These two institutions being at the center of the territory which we shall try to cover with circulars and other literature, based somewhat on the expressions uttered and read on the occasion referred to.

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Hoping that I have not asked a burdensome favor in this, and that I may receive assurance that you will endeavor to be present and make a twenty minutes' speech at the banquet, I remain

Very truly yours

E. O. Vaile

February 13th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Ill.

My dear Mr. Vaile:-

Your letter of February 10th has been received. I must beg your pardon in the matter of sending you names. In some way or other, when I took up your letter, I omitted this item. So far as I know professor Chamberlin is most largely interested in this subject. The English department, as a whole, I am inclined to think, are opposed to it, but professor MacClintock favors it. I know that professor Shorey opposes it, but I do not know how Professor Hale stands. The real fact is that I am not very well acquainted with the sentiment on this subject. I am inclined to think that Mr. Chamberlin could answer this question.

My return is altogether a problem. I mention the term of six weeks. It is possible that I may not leave until the first of April. I am unfortunately in the position of one who cannot control his own actions because so many things are involved. I am still sure that Mr. Chamberlin is the man to make this address.

I note your other point and I confess that I am very much interested in it. I hardly know what to suggest. I am afraid that Dr. Butler, Dr. Wheeler and myself are on so many committees

February 13th, 1903.

Mr. R. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Ill.

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I note your other point and I confess that I am very much interested in it. I hardly know what to suggest. I am afraid that Dr. Butler, Dr. Wheeler and myself are on so many committees

that we are not able to do our work as it ought to be done. As a matter of fact, I must call a halt and not only refuse to take up new duties, but reduce the number of those which I now have. I could convince you that this was necessary in a very short interview.

Trusting that you will soon be restored to health, I remain

Yours very truly,

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OAK PARK OR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Feb. 10th, 1903.

(31)

Dr. W. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Sir:-

Of course your declining is all right. But your letter causes me embarrassment and pain, which in justice to you as well as to myself I must let you understand, unpleasant as it it is to put it on paper. If I were not bedfast I would take the time to see you personally, if possible.

In the first place I asked if you would not kindly furnish me with the names of as many of your faculty as you know to be in sympathy with the agitation of this spelling question. I explained to you why I desire the names. You ignore my question entirely. It may have been improper altho I cannot detect in what respect. If you so deem it, I sincerely beg your pardon and withdraw the request entirely. I would really like to know whether you wish me to forego the good opportunity, which has come to my hand, to ask for an expression on this question from prominent scholarly men and to get them before the people, or at least on to the editorial desks of the country, and to have the expense met, for this entails considerable expense, much more than I could afford to give myself, and I don't know of any one else who would be willing to bear it. I fully realize ~~that~~ the superior weight which the opinions and examples of university people have in overcoming the popular prejudice and indifference on this matter. The difficulty is to get the expressions, in the first place, in a way to print, and in the second place, to get them before public notice. I have found so many university men in sympathy with the cause, according to their own statement, and yet who were much more ready to run away from opportunities to say or do anything of substantail aid in this matter than they were to seek opportunities, that I may have become unduly sensitive to such accidental oversights as this matter in your letter may be, and as I hope it is. Anyhow, I am going to be bold enough to repeat the request. I can afford neither the time nor the money for canvassing your faculty individually even if I were willing to do so, as I certainly am not. I want their expressions of interest in this cause if I can get them. If you do not feel inclined to give me the names I shall drop it so far as your faculty is concerned, but with much regret.

In the second place. You expect to be gone six weeks. Our meeting does not occur until April 4th, eight weeks from the day you wrote. Whether this fact will make any difference in your decision I cannot judge. At all events I will not ask Dr. Chamberlain to step into the breach until after I hear from you again, providing this letter reaches you without delay. If you are gone I trust your secretary will advise me immediately. You fully understand how much more attention is paid to the words of

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OAK PARK OR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

the President of such an institution than to any subordinate. Beyond the occasion of the banquet I am looking at the larger field of the whole country, and am desirous of getting some of the matter into the columns of the press, as explained to you. Hence I am exceedingly desirous to have you present in person. Dr. James had completed arrangements, before I wrote to him, which would call him away from the city at the date named, so if your decision stands, the chances of getting any of the matter of the evening symposium published, outside of our local press, are greatly reduced.

In view of this fact I am going to be bold again, whatever the result, and ask you to send me an expression of your own sympathy with this movement, which I may read at the banquet and send out to the press. This is, of course, in case you do not find your calendar will, after all, permit you to speak at the banquet. I shall hope to have the letter by the first of March, or before, if possible. This work requires a great deal of time, and has to be done on the aside as my exacting personal work permits.

So much for this particular matter. Now I must take your time for a point which I had not thought it necessary to do until your letter came. I wish I could be briefer. I will save you all I can. I have had a long correspondence with Dr. Harris- only three letters but all long ones- over a vital correlated question, which in my judgment is just now at the critical point of crystallization. I shall try at the coming meeting of Superintendents in Cincinnati to secure the appointment of a committee, to ask for a similar committee of conference from the Modern Language Association and from the American Philological Association, to recommend to each organization a universal key alphabet for indicating pronunciation for the approval and endorsement of each body. You know how each of our dictionaries now has its own individual system, complicated and burdensome. This style of diacritical marks is now ended. There is no danger of any future dictionary continuing the present system. There are new editions in contemplation and their key notation is now under consideration by their editors and publishers. The disposition exists to adhere to the old fashion of each publisher or editor following his own individual style or system. Each one seems to think it would be poor business policy to adopt a system used by any competitor. On that account the forthcoming Worcester has so altered the alphabet promulgated years ago by The American Philological Association as to spoil its possibility of use for common purposes. I have been the means of having a good deal of hot shot poured into Dr. Scott because of his entirely ignoring the needs of the common people in endeavoring to get an instrument suited to the more delicate needs of the lexicographer. The book had progressed too far, however, before any of us knew of his tampering with the alphabet. I was recently assured by a leading dictionary publisher, when urging this matter upon his consideration in his contemplated new edition, that his house never follows but always leads.

Now if there was a strong sentiment existing among the schools and university men of the country, and the students of language, in favor of stopping all this diversity and bringing all our dictionaries on to one system of pronouncing notation, and more important, of having that system based on a simple, practical, every-day alphabet, however much the lexicographer might find it

the President of such an institution than to any subordinate. Beyond the occasion of the banquet I am looking at the larger field of the whole country, and am desirous of getting some of the matter into the columns of the press, as explained to you. Hence I am exceedingly desirous to have you present in person. Dr. James had completed arrangements before I wrote to him which would call him away from the city at the date named, so if your decision stands, the chances of getting any of the matter of the evening symposium published outside of our local press are greatly reduced.

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Now I there was a strong sentiment existing among the editors and university men of the country, and the students of language in favor of adopting all this diversity and bringing all our dictionaries on to one system of pronouncing notation, and more important, of having that system based on a simple, practical, every-day alphabet, however much the lexicographer may find it

necessary to modify it to indicate their finer distinctions in sounds, these dictionary men would not deem it financially safe to strike out each on an independent pronouncing alphabet of his own. It seems to me very important to immediately start an agitation alongthis line before the work on the other dictionaries progresses any further. I want to have you on the committee with Dr. Harris and Dr. Butler and Dr. William Ide Wheeler, if I can succeed in getting such a committee appointed under the resolution which I have recited above. Would you have any objection to serving on the committee? I am sure your foresight sees what effect on the simplifying of our spelling the adoption of such a uniform key alphabet would have. I am not urging it on that score, however. Science and common sense demand that all our dictionaries shall take one fundamental system for indicating our vocal sounds. The rival manufacturers of type writers use a universal key board; the makers of type use a uniform system of bodies, so with the makers of bolts and screws, etc.

I am sorry to take so much of your time, but, as you see, if there is any value in the thought, now is the time to begin to act, and you are one of the important factors among the agents to be brought into effective work. If four leading universities of the country can be brought to pronounce upon this matter, and the two Associations also, either in approving the already existing alphabet of the American Philological Association, or a better one, the matter will be practically settled, I believe. Dr. Harris's last letter gives me great hope that he will finally abandon the system in use in the great English Murray Dictionary in process of publication, and that his mind is open to consider a simplier and more practical system. I suspect that Dr. Harris will have something to do with some of these new dictionaries if he lives long enough. Anyhow he ought to be on the committee, and I shall try to secure his appointment. I only want to know if you would resent the liberty if I should have you named likewise on it.

For fear of missing a mail I authorize my stenographer to sign this letter and mail immediately rather than take time to send it or bring it from my office to my sick-bed for my own signature.

Very truly yours

E. O. Vaile

necessary to modify it to indicate their finer distinctions in sounds. These dictionary men would deem it financially safe to strike out each on an independent pronouncing alphabet of its own. It seems to me very important to immediately start an agitation along this line before the work on the other dictionaries progresses any further. I want to have you on the committee with Dr. Barrie and Dr. Butler and Dr. William Ide Wheeler if I can succeed in getting such a committee appointed under the resolution which I have recited above. Would you have any objection to serving on the committee? I am sure your foresight would be of the utmost importance in the adoption of such a uniform key alphabet would have. I am not urging it on this score, however. Science and common sense demand that all our dictionaries shall take one fundamental system for indicating our vocal sounds. The rival manufacturers of type writers use a universal key board; the makers of type use a uniform system of points, so with the makers of bolts and screws, etc.

I am sorry to take so much of your time, but, as you see, it seems to me very vital in the thought, now is the time to begin to do the work to effective work. If your leading universities of the country can be brought to pronounce upon this matter, and the two associations also, either in approving the already existing alphabet of the American Philological Association, or a better one, the matter will be practically settled. I believe Dr. Barrie's last letter gives me great hope that he will finally abandon the system in use in the great English Murray Dictionary in process of publication, and that his mind is open to consider a simpler and more practical system. I suspect that Dr. Barrie will have something to do with some of these new dictionaries if he lives long enough. Anyhow he ought to be on the committee, and I shall try to secure his appointment. I only want to know if you would resent the liberty if I should have you named likewise on it.

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Very truly yours

Cleveland

February 21st, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Ill.

My dear Mr. Vaile:-

I have your letter with its very specific request. I do not like to make this statement because I am afraid it will be thought by many to appear as an official statement and as representing the university. I think you will appreciate my embarrassment in the situation.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain

Yours very truly,

February 21st, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

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Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain

Yours very truly,

Andrew D. White, LL. D., L. H. D., formerly President of Cornell University, and our Ambassador to Russia and to Germany:

Two [illegible]s strike my mind very forcibly. These are:

First—The fearful waste of time on the part of millions of our children, in learning the most illogical mode of spelling, probably, that this world has ever seen; the only real result being to weary them of books and to blunt their reasoning faculties.

Secondly—The barrier which our present system establishes against the most important agent in the rapid civilization and Christianization of the world. The grammar of our tongue is probably the simplest and easiest known among civilized nations; so much so, indeed, that for a long time it was accepted as a truth that the English language had no grammar Our language is spreading among the cultured classes in all parts of the world; but, what is more important, it is beginning to take possession of the vast semi-civilized and barbarous nations of the East—China, Japan, India, and the islands of the Pacific.

I have no doubt that, were English orthography simplified, the English language would within a generation or two become the business language of the more active part of all these great nations. The effect of sending out 100,000 missionaries would be but slight when compared with what would be accomplished if our language were thus spread among those nations, and they were thus opened to the treasures of Christianizing and civilizing thought contained in it These are the two things that I see in the matter, and I rejoice that the leading philologists, as well as all thoughtful, practical men, are all ranged on one side.

Let me urge you to give yourself as much as possible to the movement. It is really one of the things to which it is really worth while to devote one's self in this world. (1883.)

Morrison R. Waite, LL. D , Chief Justice of the U. S.,1874-1888.

For the sake of the coming generations I hope it may be accomplished.

Charles Sumner:

The English language has an immense future. But there must be harmony between the written and the spoken word. In helping this reform you are a public benefactor.

William E. Gladstone, British Premier:

I often think that if I were a foreigner and had to set about learning English I should go mad. I honestly can say I cannot conceive how it is that he learns to pronounce English, when I take into account the total absence of rule, method, and system, and all the auxiliaries that people usually get when they have to acquire something difficult of attainment . . . It is not in my power to offer to give any time, under present circumstances, to the undertaking which I recommend and in which I should gladly have found myself able to join. I would gladly lead it if I were younger and had some things off my hands.

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OAK PARK OR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Feb.16th,1903.

Dr. William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Dr. Harper:-

I wonder if each of us is not entitled to a monument for patience. I will concede your claim to be the greater, if your good nature will continue long enough to recall the fact that in two letters I asked you, in case you finally decided that you could not address the principals in person, to send me a clear letter expressing your conviction as to the desitability of simplifying our spelling, and approving, if you can, the immediate use of the twelve N.E.A. short spellings, so called, "tho", "thru, " etc. You have not paid attention to my request. Hence I repeat it. I cannot see how any embarrassment or harm could come to you, or any of your interests, by letting the public know clearly that you favor the movement toward reform. A letter from you to that effect read at the meeting, and printed in the papers, would have very great weight. This is why I write again, and I hope you will send me the desired letter.

Very truly yours

E. O. Vaile

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OAK PARK or CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Feb. 16th, 1903.

Dr. William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Dr. Harper:-

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Very truly yours

E.O. Vaile

143

March 16th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Illinois.

My dear Sir:

I suppose I must acknowledge the charge. I am a coward. That is, I am afraid to take hold of some questions which I do not have the time and the strength to handle. We cannot all of us do everything. My interest is in a different line. I am sure this will not satisfy you, but I am sorry to have you think that I do not want to be of service in the direction which you indicate.

Very truly yours,

March 16th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Illinois.

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OAK PARK OR CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mar. 2nd, 1903.

(24)

Dr. William H. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Harper:-

Your duplicate letter is just to hand, and I thank you sincerely for your courtesy. I can hardly express to you my disappointment at your decision, altho I felt in my bones all the time that it would be so. You must allow me to say, however, that my disappointment has shifted from regret on account of the occasion in which I am enlisted, to regret on account of Dr. Harper himself. I have strong, vigorous letters from Pres. James, Pres. Andrews, and a milder, but outspoken one from Pres. Butler. Pres. Remsen, Hadley and Jordan, + Hyde find themselves too busy to write the letter, which, of course, is easily interpreted, altho they do not have the assurance, in the face of the record submitted to them, to say that they are opposed. Pres. Wilson has no sympathy with the cause. Now, when the issue is thus raised, and a leading President feels that the interest of his institution so over-shadows the interest of humanity- I don't believe you will maintain that this question is any less- that he cannot find it in his heart to declare his honest conviction on the merits of the question, what may justly be thought of him? I am not saying this in continuation of my expectation of a letter from you. I abandon-~~ed~~ that, altho I must say I still hope that you will re-consider your decision out of justice to yourself. A dozen lines from you would be of great weight, and may easily include an ample saving clause to prevent any such mistake as you fear may arise. You see I do not appreciate your "embarrassment", and am thinking of what would be the fate of all reform movements if your example should be followed by our leading university presidents. The duty of opportunity is to be recognized, as well as the duty of conviction, both of which coalesce in the coming occasion, so far as believers in the cause are concerned.

Very truly yours

E. B. Vaile

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OAK PARK or CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Mar. 3rd, 1903.

Dr. William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Harper:-

Your duplicate letter is just to hand, and I thank you sincerely for your courtesy. I can hardly express to you my disappointment at your decision, altho I felt in my bones all the time that it would be so. You must allow me to say, however, that my disappointment has shifted from regret on account of the occasion in which I am initiated, to regret on account of Dr. Harper himself. I have strong, vigorous letters from Pres. James, Pres. Andrews, and a milder, but outspoken one from Pres. Butler. Pres. Remsen, Hadley and Dr. Gilman find themselves too busy to write the latter, which, of course, is easily interpreted, altho they do not have the assurance to say so. Pres. Wilson has no sympathy with the cause they are opposed. Pres. Wilson has no sympathy with the cause. Now, when the issue is thus raised, and a leading President feels that the interest of his institution so over-shadows the interest of humanity- I don't believe you will maintain that this question is any less- that he cannot find it in his heart to declare his honest conviction on the merits of the question, what may justly be thought of him. I am not saying this in contumacion of my expectation of a letter from you. I abandon that, altho I must say I still hope that you will reconsider your decision out of justice to yourself. A dozen lines from you would be of great weight, and may easily include an ample saving clause to prevent any such mistake as you fear may arise. You see I do not appreciate your "embarrassment", and am ignorant of what would be the fate of ALL reform movements if your example should be followed by our leading university presidents. The duty of opportunity is to be recognized, as well as the duty of conviction, both of which coalesce in this country occasion so far as believers in the cause are concerned.

Very truly yours

E. A. Davis

June 24th, 1903.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Ill.

My dear Sir:-

I find that I have already made an engagement for Wednesday afternoon at Boston. If the meeting were near by I might be able to be present during a portion of the time.

Yours very truly,

The three committees
the Department of Super
mend a simple, practi

Oak Park, Ill.
June, 18, 1903.

My Dear Dr. Harper

The three committees appointed at the instance of the Department of Superintendence, N. E. A., to recommend a simple, practical, phonetic alphabet as the uniform basis of a pronouncing key are as follows:

From the American Philological Association:

Prof. F. A. March, chairman, Dr. F. A. P. Scott, editor-in-chief of the new Worcester, Prof. Geo. Hempl, University of Mich., Prof. J. H. Wright, Harvard, Prof. B. Perrine, Yale.

From the Modern Language Association:

Prof. O. F. Emerson, Western Reserve University, chairman, Prof. Calvin Thomas, Columbia University, Prof. E. S. Shelden, Harvard University, Prof. C. G. Child, University of Penn., Prof. George Hempl, University of Mich.

From the Department of Superintendence:

Pres. Wm. R. Harper, University of Chicago, Supt. F. Louis Soldan, St. Louis, Supt. Aaron Gove, Denver, Supt. T. M. Balliet, Springfield, Mass., E. O. Vaile, Oak Park, Ill.

It is desirable to have at least one meeting of the full committee during the N. E. A. meeting at Boston, July 6—10, at which the leading lexicographers and dictionary publishers may be invited to give the committee the benefit of their views on any of the practical points involved in our problem.

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This letter asks:—

1. Can you be counted on to attend a committee meeting, say Wednesday, 2:30 P. M., July 8? Some members of the committee, as well as others whose views the committee would doubtless like to hear, will come to Boston for that purpose if they can be sure that there will be a meeting of the committee. Otherwise they will not. Hence a definite and immediate answer to this question is important. Secretary Shepard will be able to tell you in what room the meeting will be held.

2. Would any other day or hour suit you better for this meeting, leaving an opportunity for another meeting later in the week in case one is desired?

3. The following persons have been suggested as "men of practical experience who might have wise suggestions to submit to the committee if an opportunity were afforded them."

Dr. Benj. E. Smith, Managing Editor Cent. Dictionary; Mr. O. M. Baker, head of G. & C. Merriam Co., publishers Webster's Dictionary; Dr. Isaac Funk, managing editor Standard Dictionary; Melvil Dewey, State Librarian of N. Y.; Dr. W. T. Harris; Dr. R. W. Gilder, editor The Century; Dr. T. R. Lounsbury, Yale University.

Unless there is objection these gentlemen, and any others whom you may suggest, will be invited to attend, provided the responses to this letter insure a meeting of the committee.

4. Do you wish to have in hand the alphabet promulgated by the American Philological Association in 1877? I will provide copies if I am notified immediately. You may be interested to know that the New York branch of the American Type Founders Co., has just (June 1) put upon the market 8 and 10-point fonts of it in "Century Expanded" type.

If the problem of signs for our single vowels is considered solved by the alphabet made by the American Philological Association and approved, I understand, by the Modern Language Association, we shall then have to face the problem, avowedly referred to the future by Dr. Whitney, Dr. March and their committee of 25 years ago, viz: Whether and what individual signs shall be chosen to represent our digraphs and our diphthongs?

With this problem disposed of, as it may be if the hoped for spirit of compromise prevails, there will remain the question:— Is it feasible to devise a system of diacritical marks to go with this alphabet which the educational and reading public would be warranted in calling upon lexicographers to adopt to the exclusion of all other systems?

Your prompt reply is greatly desired.

Very truly,

E. O. Vaile

University of Chicago

University of Chicago, February 18, 1913.

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE:

The following letter from Mr. E. O. Vaile, Chairman of a Committee of the Illinois State Teachers' Association, is an indication of the great importance which the school teachers attach to the approaching action of the Senate on the matter of simpler English spellings.

We commend Mr. Vaile's letter to your consideration, and trust that he will be favored with a reply.

JOHN M. MANLY
ALBION W. SMALL
FRANK B. TARBELL
NATHANIEL BUTLER
STARR W. CUTTING
WILLIAM A. NITZE
IRA M. PRICE
THOMAS A. JENKINS
T. C. CHAMBERLIN

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

COMMITTEE

***E. O. Vaile, Chairman**
Oak Park, Ill.

***Rev. Wm. E. Barton**
Pastor 1st Cong'l Church, Oak Park

***Prof. Nathaniel Butler**
University of Chicago

***Everett Sisson**
Managing Director "The Continent"

***Rev. R. A. White**
Pastor People's Church, Englewood

***Dr. Wm. B. Owen**
Prin. Chicago Teachers College

Prof. C. L. Esbjorn
Augustana College, Rock Island

***Prof. George O. Curme**
North-Western University, Evanston

R. E. Hieronymus
Sec'y State Educat'l Commis'n, Eureka

Thomas McClelland
President Knox College, Galesburg

David Felmley
President State Normal School, Normal

J. H. Collins
Superintendent of Schools, Springfield

***E. C. Rosseter**
Dist. Supt. of Schools, Chicago

Pres. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign

J. E. Miller
Former Supt. of Schools, E. St Louis

*Executiv Sub-Committee

Oak Park, Illinois,
February 19, 1913.

TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Gentlemen: Will you permit me to remind you that a decided majority of the progressive teachers and superintendents of the country are heartily in favor of simplified spelling, and would be glad to be allowed to use it in their schools? The Boards of Education reflect the popular prejudice and ignorance, and admonish their teachers that they are hired to teach spelling "as it is" and not as some "coterie of reformers" think it ought to be.

To remove this hindrance and permit the cause to grow in its most natural field, the school-room, the great need is to have the new spellings adopted by some adequate authority which is free from the suspicion attaching to the agitator and the radical.

The one institution which can put the stamp of "good usage" upon simpler spellings is the university. The dictionaries claim that they must merely reflect usage. The publishers of

periodicals and books will not venture until the dictionaries authorize them. The teachers cannot teach new spellings to the children until the community is satisfied that they are "correct." Thus the endless chain is complete, and our children continue bound to the past. "Reform of our spelling is needed," said William Dwight Whitney, "not for our sake, but for the sake of unborn generations of children."

Change is always painful. The difficulties and annoyances which attend the process of rectification are obvious, but if the university is to be true to its mission—human betterment—some change is needed and the time to act is now.

Personally I favor the adoption, in part or whole, of the recommendations of the Simplified Spelling Board. No practical headway was made until the step-by-step solution was proposed. It seems to me practical and moderate, and it is in the hope of directing closer attention to the proposals of the Board, backed as they are by weighty endorsement and an impressive extent of usage, that I am asking your attention anew to the matter.

Will you please indicate on the enclosed ballot the largest number of changes you would approve, should the matter come to vote in this form? Whatever your attitude, please express yourself frankly, forwarding your ballot promptly in the enclosed stamped envelope, before March 1. Wherever the majority may stand, it will be of advantage to know the facts.

I enclose also a copy of Circular 23, and a copy of the appeal of the teachers of Illinois for your co-operation. Will you give it?

It may not be amiss here to mention the fact, which you may already know, that the State University of Illinois and Northwestern University have both adopted a large number of the recommendations of Circular 23 for use in their publications.

Respectfully yours,

BALLOT

NAME .....

DATE .....

		YES	NO
1. Please indicate which form, *a* or *b*, your vote is based on.	*a.* Without in the least committing yourself in regard to your official vote, please indicate whether or not your present personal convictions favor the University adopting in its publications any of the categories of simplifications recommended in the S. S. B. Circular 23 (copy enclosed), allowing, of course, to every writer and editor who insists on using the old spelling the privilege of doing so.		
	b. Without committing yourself in any way in respect to your official vote or personal practis, wil you be kind enuf to indicate whether you are now in favor of granting to authors and editors the privilege of using, in the University Magazines, the simplified spellings recommended by the S. S. B. Circular 23, provided this be not done to the exclusion or prejudis of the old forms when authors or editors prefer to use them.		
	c. It is assumed that those who prefer *a* above would approve *b* if that form should have the majority. If you prefer *b* would you permit your vote to be counted for *a* if that form should have the majority?		
	2. If you favor such action as is contemplated above please indicate the maximum amount of simplifications as our initial step which you would approve, by checking one of the following paragrafs: a. All the recommendations in Circular 23, pp. 3 & 4 b. The first 21 only c. The first 10 only d. The following only.....		
	3. If any simplifications should be adopted in the publications, would you favor their adoption in the the official correspondence also?		
	4. Would you entertain the idea of adopting the same in your personal correspondence?		
	5. Would you favor the creation of a committee to take up this question with other Universities with a view to securing like action?		
	6. Would you be willing to serve on such a committee?		

Spelling Reform

June 14, 1912.

The rules for spelling indicated below shall be followed by the University of Chicago Press in all the official publications of the University: in each book published, unless the author objects; and in each periodical issued by the University, unless the editors object. But no individual contributor to a periodical shall be forced to employ the spelling here indicated.

1. Spell program, tho, altho, thoro, thorofare, thru, thrucut, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.

2. Spell with -log all words ending in -logue in the traditional spelling which are not mentioned in paragraph 1. Examples: dialog, epilog, monolog, etc.

3. Spell center, fiber, meter, miter, theater, sepulcher, etc.

4. Spell honor, color, favor, labor, valor, humor, etc.

5. Spell the ending-ette as et whenever it is so pronounced. Examples: omelet, quartet, etiquet, epaulet, etc.

6. Spell with -t preterits and past participles that end with the sound of t. Further simplifications which naturally accompany the sound of -t are indicated by the following examples: dirt, hopt, stopt, stept, blest, kist, blusht, wisht, vext, mixt, lockt, packt, reacht, broacht, etc.

But whenever the ending -ed helps at all in indicating the pronunciation of a preterit or a past participle, it shall be retained. Examples: hoped, draped, escaped, noticed, induced, pronounced, etc.

Francis A. Blackburn)
John Paul Goode) Committee.
Albert H. Tolman)

June 14, 1912.

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1. Spell program, tho, altho, thoro, therefore, thru, throughout, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.

2. Spell with -log all words ending in -logue in the traditional spelling which are not mentioned in paragraph 1. Examples: dialog, analog, monolog, etc.

3. Spell Center, fiber, meter, miter, theater, sepulcher, etc.

4. Spell honor, color, favor, labor, valor, humor, etc.

5. Spell the ending-ette as et whenever it is so pronounced. Examples: omelet, quartet, etiquet, epaulet, etc.

6. Spell with -t preterits and past participles that end with the sound of t. Further simplifications which naturally accompany the sound of -t are indicated by the following examples: dipt, hopt, stopt, stept, blest, kist, blushtt, wisht, vext, mixt, locht, packt, reacht, broacht, etc.

But whenever the ending -ed helps at all in indicating the pronunciation of a preterit or a past participle, it shall be retained. Examples: hoped, draped, escaped, noticed, induced, pronounced, etc.

Francis A. Blackburn)
John Paul Goode) Committee.
Albert H. Tolman)

Chicago, April 11, 1913

Dear Mr. Hadley:-

Some members of our faculty are interested in the reformed spelling of the English language, and at their request the University Senate has asked me to correspond with the heads of some of our leading educational institutions, to ascertain if they have assumed any definite attitude toward the matter, and especially if they have taken any steps in the direction of favoring in an official way the reform in question. I shall be obliged if you will kindly give me the information with respect to Yale University.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

President Arthur Twining Hadley,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

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President Arthur Twining Hadley,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

85

OAK PARK., June 6th 1913.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson,

Pres. University of Chicago,

Dear Dr.Judson:

A vacancy existy in our committee. I would very much like to have the advantage of your name in the place. No work or attention on your part would be involved. You see from the inclosed something of how things are going. Will you permit me to nominate you for the appointment? I hope you will not say, "No".

Very truly yours,

E. O. Vaile

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Pres. University of Chicago.

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Very truly yours.

E.O. Davis

Oak Park, Ill. June 5, 1913.

Members of the Simplified Spelling Board,

Gentlemen:-

Referring to my statement in letter to Mr. Emerson, May 27th, of which you have a copy, regarding the attitude of our Chicago papers, I can now report thatthe Management of the Evening Post has prepared a series of six articles on Spelling Reform, on the whole quite satisfactory, the publication of which will begin next Monday, the last article Saturday to be accompanied by the adoption of the Twelve N. E. A. spelling for permanent use in the paper. They expect to add other short spellings a few at a time.

The enclosed letter from Victor Lawson shows that the News and Record-Herold, both of which he owns, must still be counted out. He is impressed, however, by the progressive attitude of our Universities and his papers will not antagonize or contemn the movement, nor will the Tribune or Inter-Ocean, tho they are not ready to adopt any changes.

If the Post program materializes I will send you a copy of the first issue containing the new spellings. I have reason to believe that a word of commendation from friends of the cause, if they deem the event worthy, will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

E. O. Vaile.

Oak Park, Ill. June 5, 1913.

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If the Post program materializes I will send you a copy of the first issue containing the new spellings. I have reason to believe that a word of commendation from friends of the cause, if they deem the event worthy, will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

E. O. Vaile.

Chicago
Office of the Daily News,

May 8th, 1913.

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

I have your letter of the 5th, instant.

I do not care to consider the adoption of simplified spelling in The Daily News, even to the limited extent you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Victor F. Lawson.

Office of the Daily News,
Chicago

May 8th, 1913.

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

I have your letter of the 5th, instant. I do not care to consider the adoption of simplified spelling in The Daily News, even to the limited extent you suggest.

Sincerely yours,

Victor F. Lawson.

Chicago, June 7, 1913

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

Your favor of the 6th inst. is received. I must decline undertaking connection with any more enterprises, no matter how commendable they may seem to be. Further, I am not prepared to undertake this partcular enterprise, because, while in general I sympathize with a change in the system of spelling, I am not sure that I am in accord with all that has been undertaken on that head.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. C. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Chicago, June 7, 1913

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

Your favor of the 6th inst. is received. I must decline undertaking connection with any more enterprises, no matter how commendable they may seem to be. Further, I am not prepared to undertake this particular enterprise, because while in general I sympathize with a change in the system of spelling, I am not sure that I am in accord with all that has been undertaken on that head.

Very truly yours,

R.P.J. - L.

Mr. R. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

COPY

Oak Park, Ill., Jan. 8,1913.

Dr. John H. Wigmore,
Dean of Northwestern University,
School of Law,

Dear Dr. Wigmore:-

I am informed quite indirectly that you ~~were~~ are on a Committee in which I am sure your vote and influence will be of decided weight at this time in promoting or retarding the simplified spelling movement, in which I have long been interested and taken an active part. In conversation with you some years ago it gave me pleasure to find you not only a believer in the cause but fully aware of the fundamental difficulty,- the imperfection of our alphabet.

In view of your membership in the committed I am now disturbed by the report that though friendly to the reform you seem to feel it your duty to oppose the present movement because of the gradual step-by-step process on which it is based.

I know of your practical and philanthropic nature, and it seems to me impossible that you would not heartily approve this method had it ever been your fate to throw yourself into the actual and hard work of trying to spread this gospel.

I hope that my long activity in this cause will lead you to forgive any savor of impertinence which may attach to the liberty I am taking to call your attention to a few considerations which to me, as a practical worker in this field for many years, seem perfectly conclusive and compelling. They may not appear so to you. But I could not forgive myself should I let this cause rest in peril of a hostile vote in your committee without doing my utmost at any hazard to forfend.

(1) Personally, I am in perfect accord with you and ever other man who would like to see this reform promptly consummated by the universal adoption od a rational system of spelling. I am restive and sometimes discouraged under this slow, piece-meal process. I think I fully realize its disadvantages.

On the other hand, my persevering work in this field convinces me that any other mode of attack in our day and generation, is absolutely impracticable and impossible. You simply cannot get the people to even listen to a proposition that contemplates a complete and sudden rectification. The vital question in gaining headway in any reform is not simply what is inherently desirable, but what is practically feasible. That the movement is gaining ground I do not believe you doubt for a moment. When I contrast the contempt and pity which the public showed toward every man who dared to say a word in defense of this cause thirty years ago, with the attitude of the public to-day I am more than gratified. It is true not many changes have yet been established or have taken root. But the people manifestly are now facing about on the entire proposition. The rate of change so far is no criterion as to what the rate may be when the social consciousness of the nation becomes fully aroused on this question.

COPY

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From this point of view it does not seem to me at all improbable that the time may come, sooner or later, when a radical popular movement will discard our present spelling and substitute for it at one stroke a sensible, approximately phonetic system. But there is still a vast work to be done in educating the people and overcoming their prejudice and inertia. At this stage of the reform to urge anything but a gradual progressive change would be, in my judgment, to blast the movement.

(2) But assuming for the moment that there is a better process which might prove practicable if tried, let me ask you to name it and to find the man, or the group of men, who are ready to advocate it and to ubdertake to educate the people up to it. I have not seen a sign of either since about 1880 when the entire crop of alphabetic, cataclysmic schemes sank from view as hopeless. In spite of its defects the present scheme is getting somewhere. There has rallied behind it a strong body of scholarship and culture, as you know, which is daily increasing in weight and assertion. It has carried this reform now quite beyond the merely thetic stage. It has become a united and aggressive force as you see clear evidence, I am sure. Some of the evidence I respectfully submit herein for your consideration. Although this present plan may not entirely satisfy your judgment, can you as a practical man, seeking to help humanity and to promote the welfare of childhood, afford to withhold your encouragement and support? I beg of you to carefully consider the whole situation before coming to such a decision.

I do not overestimate the importance of the decision your committee may come to. Of course it will neither entirely complete the reform, nor wholly arrest it. But at the present juncture it will have a very decided effect in one direction or the other.

You see from the enclosed transcript what action the State University of Illinois has already taken. You understand as well as I do what harm the noise and clamor of reckless politicians can do to any such movement if they see fit to let loose. As a friend to this general movement I think you must agree with me that it is of vital importance at this moment that the University of Chicago and the Northwestern University should step decisively to the support of the action taken by their sister institution. Any attack made upon the cause then would but rebound to the discredit of the politicians.

I sincerely hope you will take this letter in the spirit in which it is written, not of presumptuous interference, but of intense interest in what I believe is a very important cause which it is possible to bring to a happy fruition if all its friends can be induced to keep in line.

Very truly yours,

E. O. Vaile

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Very truly yours,

G. D. Lord

COPY

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUILDING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Office of the Dean. 16 January 1913

Professor E. O. Vaile,

Oak Park, Illinois.

Dear Professor Vaile,

Owing to a couple days' absence from illness, my letters have been in arrears, and this must be my excuse for not replying earlier to your letter of January 8. Certainly I have never read such a forceful statement of your case. I cannot at this moment pretend to answer you, or to pretend to justify my attitude. I will only say that I appreciate very much your statement to me, and I will try to keep an open mind.

There is to be a meeting of the joint committees of Chicago and Northwestern Universities on Satirday, January 25, and until that time I shall suspend my final decision.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John H. Wigmore

Dean Wigmore voted in opposition to considering the matter at first. In the end he materially aided in securing a unanimous vote for the list adopted.

E. O. V.

COPY

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUILDING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Office of the Dean. 16 January 1913

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Oak Park, Illinois.

Dear Professor Vaile,

Owing to a couple days' absence from illness, my letters have been in arrears, and this must be my excuse for not replying earlier to your letter of January 8. Certainly I have never read such a forceful statement of your case. I cannot at this moment pretend to answer you, or to pretend to justify my attitude. I will only say that I appreciate very much your statement to me, and I will try to keep an open mind.

There is to be a meeting of the joint committees of Chicago and Northwestern Universities on Saturday, January 25, and until that time I shall suspend my final decision.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John H. Wigmore

Dean Wigmore voted in opposition to considering the matter at first. In the end he materially aided in securing a unanimous vote for the list adopted.

E. O. V.

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., June 10, 1913

Dear Dr. Judson:-

I accept your refusal of course, and do not desire to argue the matter in the least. Your statement that you are not quite clear that you endorse some of the things now urged makes me feel a little uncomfortable lest I may be proposing and advocating something unwise. Such an expression from a man of your even poise puts me to the unpleasant task of examining my foundations; hence I ask the privilege of coming out and seeing you to-morrow ~~morning~~ and to ask you to give me your exact point of view. I fully realize the difficulties in the problem I am interested in and I assure you I am by no means so positive that my propositions are wise or even expedient as I may seem. So I hope you will be charitable and let me see the light through your window.

Very truly yours,

E. O. Vaile

Illinois State Teachers Association

Office of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1905)

COMMITTEE

Prof. George O. Curme
Northwestern University, Evanston

G. H. Hirschmann
Supt. State Library Commission, Springfield

Thomas McClelland
President Knox College, Galesburg

David Felmley
President State Normal School, Normal

J. H. Collins
Superintendent of Schools, Springfield

R. C. Kneeseler
Inst. Supt. of Schools, Chicago

Pres. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign

J. E. Miller
Former Supt. of Schools, St. Louis

Oak Park, June 10, 1913

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Very truly yours,

E. O. Davis

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LIST OF SIMPLIFIED SPELLINGS

The Senate of the University of Illinois on December 16, 1912, adopted for use in University publications the forms of spelling listed below, being the simpler forms of a number of words having two forms of spelling recognized in good usage.

abridgment
accouter
acknowledgment
adz
altho
anapest
anemia
anesthesia
anesthetic
antipyrin
antitoxin
apprize
arbor
archeology
ardor
armor
artizan
assize
ax
bans
behavior
brazen
brazier
bun
bur
caliber
caliper
candor
catalog
catechize
center
chimera
civilize
clamor
clangor
coeval
color
colter
comprize
coquet
criticize
cutlas
cyclopedia
decalog
defense
demagog
demeanor
deposit
develop
dieresis
distil
dolor
draft
dulness
ecumenical
edile
egis
enamor
encyclopedia
endeavor
envelop
Eolian
eon
epaulet
era
esophagus
esthetic
esthetics
estivate
ether
etiology
exorcize
fantasm
fantasy
fantom
favor
favorite
fervor
fiber
flavor
fulfil
fulness
gloze
gram
harbor
hematin
homeopathy
honor
humor
idolize
instil
judgment
labor
legalize
license
liter
lodgment
luster
mama
maneuver
materialize
meager
medieval
meter
miter
naturalize
neighbor
niter
ocher
odor
offense
omelet
orthopedic
paleography
paleolithic
paleontology
paleozoic
parlor
partizan
patronize
pedagog
pedobaptist
phenix
phenomenon
plow
practise
prenomen
pretense
preterit
pretermit
primeval
program
prolog
pur
quartet
questor
quintet
rancor
raze
recognize
reconnoiter
rigor
rumor
saber
saltpeter
savior
savor
scepter
septet
sepulcher
sextet
simitar
skilful
somber
specter
splendor
subpena
succor
sulfate
sulfur
surprize
tabor
teazel
tenor
theater
tho
thoro
thorofare
thoroly
tumor
valor
vapor
vigor
vizor
wilful
woolen

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LIST OF SIMPLIFIED SPELLINGS

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abridgment	color	lantern	color	saltpeter
account	color	labor	odor	savior
acknowledgment	comparative	lantern	omelette	savor
ads	equipt	lavor	omelet	scepter
alfin	criticize	lavorite	orthopedic	septer
analogy	cultus	lervor	paleography	separate
anemia	cyclopedia	liber	paleolithic	sexlet
anesthesia	decalog	lavor	paleontology	similar
anesthetic	defense	lulil	paleozoic	skillful
antipyrin	demagog	lumbos	parlor	sombre
antitoxin	demeanor	glox	partisan	spectre
apiplex	deposit	gram	patronize	splendor
arbor	develop	harbor	pedagog	subpoena
archeology	diarrhea	hematin	pedobaptist	succor
ardor	distil	homeopathy	phenix	sulfate
armor	dolor	honor	phenomenon	sulfur
artisan	draft	humor	plow	surplice
assize	dulcas	idolize	pra-tiss	tabor
ax	economical	instil	precomen	tassel
bans	edito	indument	pretense	tenor
behavior	egis	labor	pyelerit	theater
braten	emmor	legalize	pyelonitl	tin
brazier	encyclopedia	license	primeval	thorn
bun	endeavor	liber	program	thorolare
bur	envelop	lodement	proleg	thorolg
caliber	Eolian	luster	pur	tinner
caliper	ion	mamma	quartel	valor
candor	equalet	marbover	quezlor	vapor
catalog	era	mulcrialize	quintet	vigor
calendar	examinar	[illegible]	remor	[illegible]
cipher	editorial	[illegible]	rase	willful
chimera	athletics	meter	recognize	woolen
civilize	cativate	miler	reconnoiter	
clamor	ether	naturalize	tiger	
clanger	etiology	neighbor	rumor	
coeval	exercise	niter	saber	

Chicago, June 12, 1913

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

The action of the Senate at the meeting held on Friday, February 28th, is as follows:

"The following report of the Committee on Simplified Spelling was presented by Mr. Manly:

'The Committee recommends: (1) that a reply be sent to Augustana College, stating that the University of Chicago deems it at present inadvisable to use the simplified spelling in its official publications; (2) that the Senate request the President either to propose the question of simplified spelling for discussion by the Association of American Universities or to confer with the presidents of the larger American universities in regard to the advisability of concerted action by the universities largely engaged in publication.'"

I daresay this action has been sent to you already, but if you will notice the first of the two items in it you will see that the Senate did

Chicago, June 12, 1913

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I daresay this action has been sent to you already, but if you will notice, the first of the two items in it you will see that the Senate did

not deem it advisable to use the simplified spelling in official publications at present. So far as the second matter is concerned, the correspondence suggested was held, with the result that no one institution with which communication was had indicated any especial interest in the matter. This was reported to the Senate at its last meeting, but of course calling for no action, no action was taken.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

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Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - I.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Illinois State Teachers Association
Ofis of
Standing Committee
on Simplified Spelling
(Created 1902)

203

OAK PARK., June 16, 1913.

My dear Dr. Judson,-

I almost fear that your goodness of heart inposed upon yourself in asking me to explain to you just what the present spelling reform movement aims at, but I take you at your word and hope that the thought most of us have in mind may germinate in your own mind while you are off duty, and having the full comfort which I hope for you.

We all start from the common basis which you accept, that a more consistent system of spelling is desirable. As to the mode of securing it, differences of opinion exist. For about fifteen years, from 1870 to 1885, a vigorous campaign was carried on based largely on the idea that a phonetic alphabet could be inagurated and the whole job consummated at once. That proved a failure and a revulsion of feeling in the public mind made the cause very unpopular. The man who proposed to simplify spelling, met nothing but derision and comtempt.

After using several simplified forms in my journal for some years, I succeeded in getting the N.E.A. to adopt them in 1897 and we have kept them in use, and I have emphasized the step-by-step process as the only feasible way of making any progress in the reform. I suppose right here is where you hesitate as a good many others do. I am just in receipt of a letter from Dr. Cutting, of your Faculty, in which he pithily expresses the difficulty thus:

Illinois State Teachers Association

Office of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1905)

Oak Park, June 16, 1908.

My dear Dr. Judson,-

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COMMITTEE

*E. O. Vaile, Chairman
Oak Park, Ill.

*Rev. Wm. E. Barton
Pastor 1st Cong'l Church, Oak Park

*Prof. Harlan H. Ballard
University of Chicago

*Everett Jackson
Managing Director "The Continent"

*Rev. R. A. White
Pastor Presb'n Church, Hyde Park

Dr. Wm. H. Owen
Prin. Chicago Teachers College

Prof. C. L. Edgren
Augustana College, Rock Island

*Executive Sub-Committee

*Prof. George O. Curme
North-Western University, Evanston

R. E. Hieronymus
Sup't State Advanced Graded Schools, Kansas

Thomas McClelland
President Knox College, Galesburg

David Felmley
President State Normal School, Normal

J. H. Collins
Superintendent of Schools, Springfield

*E. C. Hewett
Dist. Supt. of Schools, Chicago

Pres. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign

J. E. Miller
Former Supt. of Schools, St. Louis

"Personally I am such an unorthodox advocate of simplification that I may safely be counted among the goats.. When the present propaganda began ten or twelve years ago I was asked to join it. I did so, hoping a procedure might be adopted which would not lead straight into the blind alley, inevitably the outcome of all attempts to simplify by never so skilful shuffling of 26 visual symbols, to represent approximately fifty distinct sounds of the average spoken English speech. I wrote a letter to the Spelling Board, calling attention to the mathamatical impasse, involved in the route already taken, urging that we should by following this route for a period of years not only prove its utter uselessness as a path to the goal of reasonably phonetic spelling but should incur the just distrust of the large philistine public in the sagacity and trustworthiness of our leadership in the matter."

I fully share his feeling as to the desirability of adopting phonetic spelling. It is the position held by Dean Wigmore of the Northwestern University School of Law up to the time when I approached him on the matter with a letter which I do not believe I could improve upon in answering Dr. Cutting. I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of it, as my answer to your probable difficulty, and as explaining the position which is taken, I believe, by all the Members of our Board as well as other friends of the movement.

I suppose you are aware that the Chicago Evening Post has published a series of five articles on the subject in a very serious and respectful vein. The Post will print one more article on the subject, at the same time adopting the twelve so-called N. E. A. Spellings, throughout its columns for permanent use, expecting to increase the number gradually as it finds it safe.

The action of the two Universities, which have already committed themselves, has had a very decided affect. One thing is needed, similar action by the University of Chicago. Its withholding its approval raises a query in the mind of many. I can think of no one thing in the range of probabilities which

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., ... 191.....

would be so helpful at this moment as for your University to take some positive action in support of the movement. If you deem it too much to admit any new spelling into your formal books, why not let your periodical editors have the option of adopting such new forms as they see fit? The matter of consistency seems to me is entirely overdone in all circles of a literary character to-day. That is at the bottom of the tyranny of our spelling book and dictionary. Why not let up somewhat in that respect and assert for ourselves something of the freedom which the writers of Milton's time assumed?

I sincerely hope you will take up this matter again in the Fall, and that the movement will have the help of your great Institution.

Very truly yours,

E. O. Vaile

COMMITTEE

*E. O. Vaile, Chairman
Oak Park, Ill.
*Rev. Wm. E. Barton
Pastor 1st Cong'l Church, Oak Park
*Prof. Nathaniel Butler
University of Chicago
*Everett Sisson
Managing Director "The Continent"
*Rev. R. A. White
Pastor People's Church, Englewood
*Dr. Wm. B. Owen
Prin. Chicago Teachers College
Prof. C. L. Esbjorn
Augustana College, Rock Island

*Executiv Sub-Committee

*Prof. George O. Curme
North-Western University, Evanston
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Sec'y State Educat'l Commis'n, Eureka
Thomas McClelland
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David Felmley
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Superintendent of Schools, Springfield
*E. C. Rosseter
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Former Supt. of Schools, E. St Louis

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., ... 191.....

Chicago, June 17, 1913

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

Your favor of the 16th inst. is received. I am about leaving the city for the summer, and can hardly give the matter any attention at this time. It will not be of much use to try to bring any pressure to bear to induce the University of Chicago to take any action in this line. If after mature consideration the University of its own motion is convinced of the wisdom of any steps in this direction of course they will be taken.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Chicago, June 17, 1913

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Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. H. O. Vallie,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Chicago, June 18, 1913

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Vaile:-

The announcement in the POST yesterday of its intentions as to spelling illustrates very well some matters with which I cannot agree. The spelling of through as "thru" seems to me entirely illogical, and by no means a step in the right direction. The spelling of program without the "me" is what I have long followed myself; at the same time I am bound to admit that the effect is very largely merely the change of the pronunciation of the word, making it "progrum". Of course the same comment that I made on "thru" applies to "thruout". Some of the changes are an improvement; some are no improvement; and some do more harm than good. I am in favor of a scientific, phonetic spelling system. I don't believe we are getting very far by adopting an illogical and haphazard advance.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Chicago, June 18, 1913

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Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Illinois State Teachers Association

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Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

222

OAK PARK., June 18th, 1913.

Dear Doctor Judson:

Since seeing you Monday The Chicago Evening Post has announced its adoption of the twelve N.E.A. spellings which I did not take the time to explain to you in your haste that morning. I mailed you last evening a copy of yesterdays paper. I hope you had time to look at it. It is an important step and all friends of the reform ought to join, I think, in confirming it. Assured of your personal sympathy with the movement I ask you to sign the enclosed endorsement and let me have it to publish with others. I have been in the city all day and have had time only to get the signatures of Dr. Barton and Judge Kohlsaat. I expect to get the signatures of LaVerge W.Noyes, Dr. A. W. Harris, Judge Baldwin and a few others before I have the letter put in type and sent out more widely in order to secure a larger list of signers for publication. I think you must approve the propriety of such a step in developing public sentiment.

I want further to state most respectfully that President A. W. Harris and Doctor W. A. Evans of the Tribune, have agreed to fill two of the three vacancies in our committee. In view of the action of the Post and of the co-operation of these two prominent citizens I wonder if you will not reconsider your decision not to accept the place on our committee. You understand, I think, that no man on it is committed to any detail of reform. We are all interested in developing the community in the line of approval of reform. The Secretary is quite ready to subordinate his private views of practical work to the desire of the committee. There is no other man whose name would fit in so effectively as your own. I would not be so eager did I not expect to do considerable promotion work before you return from Europe. Will you not consent to let your name work in behalf of the cause while you are resting across the water?

I hope you will forgive any seeming impertinence in my bringing up this point again.

Very truly yours,

E. O. Vaile

Illinois State Teachers Association

Standing Committee

on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1907)

COMMITTEE

*L. D. Vail, Chairman
Oak Park, Ill.
*Rev. Wm. E. Barton
Pastor 1st Congl. Church, Oak Park
*Prof. Martin G. Butler
University of Chicago
*Everett Gleason
Managing Director, "The Outlook"
*Rev. R. A. White
Pastor Peoples Church, Kenwood
*Dr. Wm. R. Owen
Trin. College Teachers College
Prof. C. L. Bishop
Augustana College, Rock Island

*Executive Sub-Committee

Prof. George O. Ferme
South Western University, Kansas
R. E. Throneberry
Secy's Office Indiana Commission, Kansas
Thomas McClelland
President Knox College, Galesburg
David Felmley
President Illinois Normal School, Normal
A. H. Collins
Superintendent of Schools, Springfield
*C. C. Rossetter
Dir. Dept. of Schools, Chicago
Pres. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign
J. E. Miller
Superintendent of Schools, E. St Louis

Oak Park, June 18th, 1908.

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I hope you will forgive any seeming impertinence in my bringing up this point again.

Very truly yours,

L. D. Vail

Editor Chicago Evening Post.

We desire hereby to express our gratification at your adoption of the 12 N. E. A. short spellings.

Tho Thru Thoro Catalog Etc.

in your columns, and we hope to see you increase the list and to see other influential journals take a like step.

Names	P.O. Address	Position or Occupation.
William E. Barton,	Oak Park, Ill.	Pastor, First Congregational Church.
C. C. Kohlsaat,	Chicago.	U. S. Circuit Judge.

Editor Chicago Evening Post.

We desire hereby to express our gratification at your adoption of the 12 N. E. A. short spellings.

<u>Tho</u> <u>Thru</u> <u>Thoro</u> <u>Catalog</u> Etc.

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Names	P.O. Address	Position or Occupation.
William E. Barton,	Oak Park, Ill.	Pastor, First Congregational Church.
C. C. Konigsmacht,	Chicago.	U. S. Circuit Judge.

or Chicago Evening Post:

We desire hereby to express our gratification at your adoption of the 12 N. E. A. short spellings

Tho Thru Thoro Catalog Etc.

in your columns, and we hope to see you increase the list and to see other influential journals adopt simpler spelling in like manner.

Sincerely Yours,

William E. Barton	**Oak Park**	**Pastor First Congregational Church**
C. C. Kohlsaat	**Chicago**	**U. S. Circuit Judge**
Samuel Fallows	**"**	**Presiding Bishop Ref'd Episcopal Ch.**
Jesse A. Baldwin	**"**	**Chief Justice of Circuit Court**
LaVerne W. Noyes	**"**	**Manufacturer**
W. H. Hatch	**Oak Park**	**Supt. of Schools**
Willis S. Herrick	**"**	**Pres. Avenue State Bank**
H. W. Austin	**"**	**Pres. Oak Park Trust & Savings Bk.**
Anna E. Blount, M. D.	**"**	**Leader in Suffrage Campaign**
Catherine Waugh McCulloch, Att'y.	**Evanston**	**" " " "**
A. W. Harris	**Evanston**	**Pres. Northwestern University**
O. M. Donaldson	**Oak Park**	**Editor**
E. O. Vaile	**"**	**Ch'm. Simplified Spelling Committee Ill. State Teachers' Ass'n.**

My Dear Dr. Judson:

I venture to send these as a sort of "steamer letter" with my best wishes, simply calling your attention to the names above as indicative of the view the higher grade of biznez men take of this subject. I respect your admonition not to bring pressure to bear on the U. of C. I presume, however, you recognize that it owes sumthing to the public & that the people hav a right to petition for progress on the part of the University.

If you can improve on the spelling thru I would like to see it. That spelling is as absolutely fonetic & immune from change while our alfabet remains as it is as any spelling can be.

Very truly E. O. Vaile

*E. O. Vail
Oak P
*Rev. Wm.
Pastor 1st Cong'l C
*Prof. Natha
University o
*Everett
Managing D

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., ...191.....

Dear Sir or Madam:—

Recently the State University of Illinois and Northwestern University each adopted a definite and considerable list of simplified spellings to be used in its official correspondence and publications.

June 17th, the Chicago Evening Post with its quartet of subsidiary dailies in different Indiana cities, adopted the twelve N. E. A. short spellings for regular use, as you see in the copy mailed to you herewith. Its manager expects to gradually increase the list until it reaches the limit of what may prove prudent in the present development of public sentiment.

Such a step by a large metropolitan journal is an event of great significance in the progress of this cause, and it should be utilized to the utmost. (1) Managers who have the progressive spirit to take such a step should be made to realize that they have the approval and moral support of the educated and influential part of the community. (2) This approval should be so given as to encourage and induce other journals to take the same step.

Please sign the enclosed letter and get as many others to sign it as you can conveniently, and mail it promptly to us in the envelope.

We will see that publicity is given to all endorsements in the most effective way possible.

This letter is issued entirely on our own responsibility, and without any knowledge of it whatever by the managers of the Post.

Very truly yours,

Committee on Simplified Spelling,
Illinois State Teachers' Association.
By its Chairman.

June 18, 1913.

Illinois State Teachers' Association

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1909)

COMMITTEE:

Chairman
J. E. Hervey
Supt. Public Schools, Oak Park
Martin Luther Mueller
University of Chicago
Robert Shenk
Supt. Public Schools, Springfield
Miss Frances Jones
Supt. Public Schools, Danville
Mr. Wm. R. Owen
Prin. Chicago Teachers College
Prof. L. L. Palmer
Armstrong College, Rock Island
Secretary sub-Committee

Miss Georgia O. Carne
Sub-Normal Training, Danville
D. E. Hervey Evans
Supt. Public Schools, Springfield, Illinois
Thomas McClelland
President, Knox College, Galesburg
David Felmley
President Illinois Normal School, Normal
L. H. Collins
Supt. Public Schools, Springfield
H. C. Dorster
Dist. Supt. of Schools, Chicago
Prof. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign
J. E. Miller
Former Supt. of Schools, E. St. Louis

OAK PARK, ... 191

Dear Sir or Madam:—

Recently the State University of Illinois and Northwestern University each adopted a definite and considerable list of simplified spellings to be used in its official correspondence and publications.

June 17th, the Chicago Evening Post with its quartet of subsidiary dailies in different Indiana cities, adopted the twelve N. E. A. short spellings for regular use, as you see in the copy mailed to you herewith. Its manager expects to gradually increase the list until it reaches the limit of what may prove prudent in the present development of public sentiment.

Such a step by a large metropolitan journal is an event of great significance in the progress of this cause, and it should be utilized to the utmost. (1) Managers who have the progressive spirit to take such a step should be made to realize that they have the approval and moral support of the educated and influential part of the community. (2) This approval should be so given as to encourage and induce other journals to take the same step.

Please sign the enclosed letter and get as many others to sign it as you can conveniently, and mail it promptly to us in the envelope.

We will see that publicity is given to all endorsements in the most effective way possible.

This letter is issued entirely on our own responsibility, and without any knowledge of it whatever by the managers of the Post.

Very truly yours,

Committee on Simplified Spelling,
Illinois State Teachers' Association.
By its Chairman.

June 18, 1913.

Chicago, June 20, 1913

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

I have your favor of the 18th inst. You have already received a note from me, I think, which shows the views which I hold as to the EVENING POST and the spelling they have adopted. If I were to send any communication to the EVENING POST it would be to express my regret that that paper has adopted all these spellings. You will see of course that it is quite impossible for me to reconsider my previous decision as to the committee.

I have also your additional note with the various signers' names. Of course anybody has a perfect right to request the University to do whatever he pleases, but personally I am never influenced by the fact that eminent people are committed to a certain

Chicago, June 20, 1913

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cause. The only thing that weighs with me is what I believe to be right. The spelling "thru" of course may be used to indicate one of the various sounds of "u", but the whole scheme, frankly, I regard simply as ridiculous.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

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Very truly yours,

H.T.J. - L.

Mr. H. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

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Simplified Spelling

The University of Chicago

Co-operation with Secondary Schools

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 22nd, 1912.

My dear Sir:

The committee appointed in the recent conference wish to submit to you the accompanying memoranda embodying recommendations which it is proposed to submit to the authorities of the University of Chicago in reference to modified spelling, to be adopted in the official publications of the University. Will you examine these recommendations with care, and return the copy with such comments as you care to make to Professor Francis A. Blackburn, chairman of the committee?

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Butler

Enc.

President Judson,

Faculty Exchange.

by th

June 14, 1912.

The rules for spelling indicated below shall be followed by the University of Chicago Press in all the official publications of the University:: in each book published, unless the author objects; and in each periodical issued by the University, unless the editors object. But no individual contributor to a periodical shall be forced to employ the spelling here indicated.

1. Spell program, tho, altho, thoro, thorofare, thru, thruout, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.

2. Spell with -log all words ending in -logue in the traditional spelling which are not mentioned in paragraph 1. Examples:: dialog, epilog, monolog, etc.

3. Spell center, fiber, meter, miter, theater, sepulcher, etc.

4. Spell honor, color, favor, labor, valor, humor, etc.

5. Spell the ending-ette as et whenever it is so pronounced. Examples:: omelet, quartet, etiquet, epaulet, etc.

6. Spell with -t preterits and past participles that end with the sound of t. Further simplifications which naturally accompany the sound of -t are indicated by the following examples: dipt, hopt, stopt, stept, blest, kist, blusht, wisht, vext, mixt, lockt, packt, reacht, broacht, etc.

But whenever the ending -ed helps at all in indicating the pronunciation of a preterit or a past participle, it shall be retained. Examples: hoped, draped, escaped, noticed, induced, pronounced, etc.

Francis A. Blackburn)
John Paul Goode) Committee.
Albert H. Tolman)

June 14, 1912.

The rules for spelling indicated below shall be followed by the University of Chicago Press in all the official publications of the University:: in each book published, unless the author objects; and in each periodical issued by the University, unless the editors object. But no individual contributor to a periodical shall be forced to employ the spelling here indicated.

1. Spell program, tho, altho, thoro, therefore, thru, throughout, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.

2. Spell with -log all words ending in -logue in the traditional spelling which are not mentioned in paragraph 1.

Examples: dialog, epilog, monolog, etc.

3. Spell center, fiber, meter, miter, theater, sepulcher, etc.

4. Spell honor, color, favor, labor, valor, humor, etc.

5. Spell the ending-ette as et whenever it is so pronounced.

Examples: omelet, quartet, etiquet, epaulet, etc.

6. Spell with -t preterits and past participles that end with the sound of t. Further simplifications which naturally accompany the sound of -t are indicated by the following examples: dipt, hopt, stopt, stept, blest, kist, blunt, wisht, vext, mixt, locht, pockt, reacht, brought, etc.

But whenever the ending -ed helps at all in indicating the pronunciation of a preterit or a past participle, it shall be retained. Examples: hoped, traced, escaped, noticed, induced, pronounced, etc.

Francis A. Blackburn)
John Paul Goode) Committee.
Albert H. Tolman)

Chicago, July 1, 1912

Dear Mr. Butler:-

I have your note, and should greatly regret to have all these changes adopted. Theoretically I believe in the reformed spelling; practically these forms suggested are in most cases to me simply hideous. In #1, the only word that I can tolerate is the first, "program ",- and that has had the unfortunate effect of causing people to call it "progrŭm". #2 I am not prepared to swallow; #3 I shouldn't object to; #4 I approve; #5 I approve; #6 is hideous - and there you are!

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Nathaniel Butler,
The University of Chicago.

Chicago, July 1, 1912

Dear Mr. Butler:-

I have your note, and should greatly regret to have all these changes adopted. Theoretically I believe in the reformed spelling; practically these forms suggested are in most cases to me simply hideous. In #1, the only word that I can tolerate is the first, "program ",- and that has had the unfortunate effect of causing people to call it "progrüm". #2 I am not prepared to swallow; #3 I shouldn't object to; #4 I approve; #5 I approve; #6 is hideous - and there you are!

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Nathaniel Butler,
The University of Chicago.

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., Feb. 26, 1913

My dear Dr. Judson:-

Laugh or frown at me, as you will. I beg you to give a serious and friendly thought to my question.

When your university takes the stand which I am sure it is going to take before you lay the question to rest, every university in Illinois will stand definitely committed to the principle of simplifying our spelling. Several colleges are ready to act, waiting for the University of Chicago to concur with the rest.

I am gently getting forces into motion which I hope will swing into line four more strong universities and a number of colleges within a year or so. A good array of universities is needed to give us adequate leverage with the great public.

I believe the time has come when some of Chicago's moneyed men could be induced to come to the support of this movement if properly approached.

I am hunting for the right man to lay this cause before one or more philanthropists to see if one cannot be found who will take the head-ship in getting others of his kind to put in, each, one or two thousands a year for a series of years, so that a permanent secretary with adequate funds and assistance can be put to work in this field to conduct ~~the~~ a campaignof education and persuasion commensurate with the size and importance of the problem.

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Your position, and in some cases your personal acquaintance, gives you access to such men as Mr. Rosenwald, Mr. Noyes, N. W. Harris, James Patten, Charles R. Crane, etc.

Would you not be willing personally to present the matter to one or more of them, or help me to do it?

If you hesitate to act alone would you be willing to join with Pres. A. W. Harris and Pres. E. J. James in approaching some of these men?

Will you allow me to call on you and talk the matter over?

I am sure my idea is feasable if I can find the right man to take the initiative.

It seems to me that this reform is a proposition peculiarly proper for university presidents to take an interest in, and for university extension departments to take up in a practical way. Its connection with the promotion of popular education and effective Americanizing of our foriegn elements is fundamental and obvious .

If you are in doubt as to my sanity or efficiency in this cause, please consult your Dr. Chamberlin, or Dr. Butler, or Supt. Mrs. Young, or my friend and neighbor Judge Baldwin, who believes in our cause and attributes his first interest in it to his reading of my educational journal when he was a school teacher. Rather ancient history but nonethe less significant.

Will you allow me the privilege of calling on you in this connection?

Very truly yours,

E. D. Vaile

Illinois State Teachers As

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spell

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK., ... 191.....

BALLOT

NAME .....

DATE .....

	YES	NO
1. Please indicate which form, *a* or *b*, your vote is based on. *a.* Without in the least committing yourself in regard to your official vote, please indicate whether or not your present personal convictions favor the University adopting in its publications any of the categories of simplifications recommended in the S. S. B. Circular 23 (copy enclosed), allowing, of course, to every writer and editor who insists on using the old spelling the privilege of doing so.		
b. Without committing yourself in any way in respect to your official vote or personal practis, wil you be kind enuf to indicate whether you are now in favor of granting to authors and editors the privilege of using, in the University Magazines, the simplified spellings recommended by the S. S. B. Circular 23, provided this be not done to the exclusion or prejudis of the old forms when authors or editors prefer to use them.		
c. It is assumed that those who prefer *a* above would approve *b* if that form should have the majority. If you prefer *b* would you permit your vote to be counted for *a* if that form should have the majority?		
2. If you favor such action as is contemplated above please indicate the maximum amount of simplifications as our initial step which you would approve, by checking one of the following paragrafs: a. All the recommendations in Circular 23, pp. 3 & 4 b. The first 21 only c. The first 10 only d. The following only.....		
3. If any simplifications should be adopted in the publications, would you favor their adoption in the the official correspondence also?		
4. Would you entertain the idea of adopting the same in your personal correspondence?		
5. Would you favor the creation of a committee to take up this question with other Universities with a view to securing like action?		
6. Would you be willing to serve on such a committee?		

Illinois State Teachers Association

BALLOT

Standing Committee

NAME

DATE

(Please Print)

	YES	NO
1. Without in the least committing yourself in regard to your official vote, please indicate whether or not your present personal convictions favor the University adopting in its publications any of the categories of simplification recommended in the S. B. Circular 23 (copy enclosed), allowing, of course, to every writer and editor who insists on using the old spelling the privilege of doing so.		
2. Without committing yourself in any way in regard to your official vote or personal practice, will you please mark to indicate whether you are now in favor of granting to authors and editors the privilege of using, in the University Magazine, the simplified spellings recommended by the S. B. Circular 23, provided this be done to the exclusion or prejudice of the old forms when authors or editors prefer to use them.		
3. It is assumed that those who prefer a above would approve b if that form should have the majority. If you prefer b would you permit your vote to be counted for a if that form should have the majority?		
4. If you favor such action as is contemplated above please indicate the maximum amount of simplifications as our initial step which you would approve, by checking one of the following paragraphs: a. All the recommendations in Circular 23, no. 3 & 4 b. The first 21 only c. The first 10 only d. The following only		
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6. Would you entertain the idea of adopting the same in your personal correspondence?		
7. Would you favor the creation of a committee to take up this question with other Universities with a view to securing like action?		
8. Would you be willing to serve on such a committee?		

University of Chicago

University of Chicago, February 18, 1913.

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE:

The following letter from Mr. E. O. Vaile, Chairman of a Committee of the Illinois State Teachers' Association, is an indication of the great importance which the school teachers attach to the approaching action of the Senate on the matter of simpler English spellings.

We commend Mr. Vaile's letter to your consideration, and trust that he will be favored with a reply.

JOHN M. MANLY
ALBION W. SMALL
FRANK B. TARBELL
NATHANIEL BUTLER
STARR W. CUTTING
WILLIAM A. NITZE
IRA M. PRICE
THOMAS A. JENKINS
T. C. CHAMBERLIN

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

COMMITTEE

***E. O. Vaile, Chairman**
Oak Park, Ill.

***Rev. Wm. E. Barton**
Pastor 1st Cong'l Church, Oak Park

***Prof. Nathaniel Butler**
University of Chicago

***Everett Sisson**
Managing Director "The Continent"

***Rev. R. A. White**
Pastor People's Church, Englewood

***Dr. Wm. B. Owen**
Prin. Chicago Teachers College

Prof. C. L. Esbjorn
Augustana College, Rock Island

***Prof. George O. Curme**
North-Western University, Evanston

R. E. Hieronymus
Sec'y State Educat'l Commis'n, Eureka

Thomas McClelland
President Knox College, Galesburg

David Felmley
President State Normal School, Normal

J. H. Collins
Superintendent of Schools, Springfield

***E. C. Rosseter**
Dist. Supt. of Schools, Chicago

Pres. Edmund J. James
State University, Champaign

J. E. Miller
Former Supt. of Schools, E. St Louis

*Executiv Sub-Committee

Oak Park, Illinois,
February 19, 1913.

TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Gentlemen: Will you permit me to remind you that a decided majority of the progressive teachers and superintendents of the country are heartily in favor of simplified spelling, and would be glad to be allowed to use it in their schools? The Boards of Education reflect the popular prejudice and ignorance, and admonish their teachers that they are hired to teach spelling "as it is" and not as some "coterie of reformers" think it ought to be.

To remove this hindrance and permit the cause to grow in its most natural field, the school-room, the great need is to have the new spellings adopted by some adequate authority which is free from the suspicion attaching to the agitator and the radical.

The one institution which can put the stamp of "good usage" upon simpler spellings is the university. The dictionaries claim that they must merely reflect usage. The publishers of

periodicals and books will not venture until the dictionaries authorize the. The teachers cannot teach new spellings to the children until the community is satisfied that they are "correct." Thus the endless chain is complete and our children continue bound to the past. "Reform of our spelling is needed," said William Dwight Whitney, "not for our sake, but for the sake of unborn generations of children."

Change is always painful. The difficulties and annoyances which attend the process of rectification are obvious, but if the university is to be true to its mission—human betterment—some change is needed and the time to act is now.

Personally I favor the adoption, in part or whole, of the recommendations of the Simplified Spelling Board. No practical headway was made until the step-by-step solution was proposed. It seems to me practical and moderate, and it is in the hope of directing closer attention to the proposals of the Board, backed as they are by weighty endorsement and an impressive extent of usage, that I am asking your attention anew to the matter.

Will you please indicate on the enclosed ballot the largest number of changes you would approve, should the matter come to vote in this form? Whatever your attitude, please express yourself frankly, forwarding your ballot promptly in the enclosed stamped envelope, before March 1. Wherever the majority may stand, it will be of advantage to know the facts.

I enclose also a copy of Circular 23, and a copy of the appeal of the teachers of Illinois for your co-operation. Will you give it?

It may not be amiss here to mention the fact, which you may already know, that the State University of Illinois and Northwestern University have both adopted a large number of the recommendations of Circular 23 for use in their publications.

Respectfully yours,

Chicago, February 27, 1913

Dear Mr. Valle:-

Your favor of the 26th inst. is received. I am not prepared yet to send you a recommendation for Kankakee. At the same time I am not prepared to undertake any campaign for funds in this matter.

Wishing you all success in whatever you undertake, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. O. Valle,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Chicago, February 27, 1913

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R.P.L. - L.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

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KNOX COLLEGE
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Simplified Spelling

March 26, 1913.

My dear President Judson:

In several of the colleges of this state the question of adopting officially a definite amount of simplified spelling is being agitated and some of the institutions have already taken favorable action.

At a meeting of the college representatives held in Peoria during the State Teachers' Meeting the undersigned committee was appointed to determine, as far as possible, the attitude of each faculty with reference to this subject and to report to the institutions the results so that, if feasible, some uniform action might be taken. It was the opinion of those present that a joint agreement by all of the colleges and universities of the state would be far better than varied individual action.

If this plan meets your approval will you be kind enough to send the chairman of the committee the opinion of your faculty as you may determine it? A formal vote is not called for, but rather a statement of the attitude of your faculty members, especially of those in the English department, with your estimate of what joint agreement they would be willing to enter into.

The inclosed statements indicate favorable action already taken.

Very truly yours,

C. L. Esbjorn, Augustana College,
F. C. L. Van Steenderen, Lake Forest College,
H. E. Griffith, Knox College,
Chairman.

President Harry P. Judson,
Chicago University,
Chicago, Ill.

KNOX COLLEGE
GALESBURG, ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 20, 1913.

My dear President Judson:

In several of the colleges of this state the question of adopting officially a definite amount of albgitified speaking is being agitated and some of the institutions have already taken favorable action.

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Very truly yours,

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F. G. L. Van Steenbergen, Lake Forest College,
H. M. Griffith, Knox College,
Chairman.

President Harry P. Judson,
Chicago University,
Chicago, Ill.

The following statements from several institutions indicate favorable action already taken:

From Monmouth College.

"I am glad to be able to inform you that we have decided to accept the Reformed Spellings as fast as two-thirds of the colleges of the state will accept them."

From The University of Illinois.

"The committee on Educational Policy recommended the adoption for use in University publications of the simpler forms recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board of those words having at the present time two or more accepted spellings which are included in classes 1, 2, and 4-20, as given on pages three and four of Circular #15, issued by the Simplified Spelling Board on November 23, 1907, and entitled "Three Hundred Words Spelled in Two or More Ways." The Committee did not recommend the adoption of the changes proposed under Class 3 of the said circular, namely, those in words spelled with either ed or t. The recommendation of the Committee was adopted; with the understanding that this action does not adopt any spellings contained in the list of three hundred words given in the circular in question which do not fall in the classes named.

(From the minutes of the meeting of the University Senate held December 16, 1912)."

From Northwestern University.

"It will doubtless be of interest to you to learn that on February 15th the University Council of this institution unanimously adopted, for use in the publications of Northwestern University, beginning July 1, 1913, a list of 213 words taken from Circular No. 15. The forms which were omitted are as follows:

All of those in Class III (-t for -ed); as well as the following:

antipyrin	sithe
bur	sulfur (and sulfate)
egis	tho, thoro, thru and their compounds."

From James Millikin University.

"I have your letter of November 23rd and in reply I would say that our faculty adopted the following motion at its recent meeting: "That the Council of James Millikin University expresses its approval of the movement for reformed spelling, and records itself as willing to join with the other colleges of the state in adopting it in practice, as rapidly as it seems feasible."

The following statements from several institutions indicate favorable action already taken:

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(From the minutes of the meeting of the University Senate held December 16, 1912)."

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"It will doubtless be of interest to you to learn that on February 15th the University Council of this institution unanimously adopted, for use in the publications of Northwestern University, beginning July 1, 1913, a list of 212 words taken from Circular No. 15. The forms which were omitted are as follows:

All of those in Class III (-t for -ed); as well as the following:

antipyrin	altho
bar	author (and author)
ego	the, there, then and their compounds."

From James Millikin University.

"I have your letter of November 23rd and in reply I would say that our faculty adopted the following motion at its recent meeting: "That the Council of James Millikin University expresses its approval of the movement for reforming spelling, and records itself as willing to join with the other colleges of the state in adopting it in practice, as rapidly as it seems feasible."

Chicago, March 27, 1913

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th inst. is received. The University Senate within the last few weeks reported that in the opinion of that body it is inadvisable at present to use the simplified spelling in the University official publications. I may add that in the opinion of the Senate, although not embodied in the resolution, the improvement in spelling would not be facilitated by an arrangement among the colleges of a single state.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Professor H. E. Griffith,
Knox College,
Galesburg, Illinois.

Chicago, March 27, 1913

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th inst. is received. The University Senate within the last few weeks reported that in the opinion of that body it is inadvisable at present to use the simplified spelling in the University official publications. I may add that in the opinion of the Senate, although not embodied in the resolution, the improvement in spelling would not be facilitated by an arrangement among the colleges of a single state.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Professor H. E. Griffith,
Knox College,
Galesburg, Illinois.

Chicago, April 11, 1913

Dear Mr. Butler:-

Some members of our faculty are interested in the reformed spelling of the English language, and at their request the University Senate has asked me to correspond with the heads of some of our leading educational institutions, to ascertain if they have assumed any definite attitude toward the matter, and especially if they have taken any steps in the direction of favoring in an official way the reform in question. I shall be obliged if you will kindly give me the information with respect to Columbia University.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

President Nicholas Murray Butler,
Columbia University, New York.

Chicago, April 11, 1915

Dear Mr. Butler:-

Some members of our faculty are interested in the reformed spelling of the English language, and at their request the University Senate has asked me to correspond with the heads of some of our leading educational institutions, to ascertain if they have assumed any definite attitude toward the matter, and especially if they have taken any steps in the direction of favoring in an official way the reform in question. I shall be obliged if you will kindly give me the information with respect to Columbia University.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

President Nicholas Murray Butler,
Columbia University, New York.

Simplified Spelling

The University of Chicago

April 3, 1913.

President H. P. Judson:

Dear Mr. Judson:

I understand that Mr. Manly has procured the passage of a motion by the University Senate which requests you to co-operate with the important American universities that engage in publishing, in order to secure ~~some~~ joint action favoring some measure of simplified spelling.

A number of us were engaged in circulating a petition asking that a faculty meeting be called to consider the matter of simplified spelling. In view of the action in the Senate it seems best to drop our petition. I am sending you herewith a copy of that petition, as it may interest you. It was largely formulated by me. The other members of the Com. were Professors Goode & Blackburn.

The plan was to have Part I and Part II

considered separately. It was felt that it was not worth acting at all unless we could adopt the whole of Part I.

I sincerely hope that some joint action favoring simpler spelling may be taken by the American universities that have publishing departments.

I am sending Professor Manly also a copy of my petition.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Tolman

FOR SIMPLER SPELLING.

The undersigned members of the Faculty of the University of Chicago respectfully request the President of the University to call a meeting of the General Faculty to consider the following proposals for the use of simplified spellings by the University of Chicago Press.

* * * * * *

The rules for spelling indicated below shall be followed by the University of Chicago Press in all the official publications of the University; in each book published, unless the author objects; and in each periodical issued by the University of Chicago Press, unless the editors object. But no individual contributor to a periodical shall be forced to employ the spelling here indicate d.

PART I.

1. Spell program, tho, altho, thoro, thorofare, thruout, catalog, prolog, demagog, pedagog.

2. Spell with -log all words ending in -logue in the traditional spelling which are not mentioned in paragraph I. Examples: dialog, epilog, monolog, etc.

3. Spell center, fiber, meter, miter, theater, sepulcher, etc.

4. Spell honor, color, favor, labor, valor, humor, etc.

5. Spell the ending -ette as -et whenever it is so pronounced. Examples: omelet, quartet, etiquet, epaulet.

PART II.

Spell dipt, hopt, stept, blest, kist, blusht, wisht, vext, mixt, packt, publisht, confest, etc. Spell as at present hoped, draped, reached, broached, noticed, prefaced, induced, etc.

Chicago, April 7, 1913

Dear Mr. Tolman:-

Your favor of the 3d inst. is at hand. Herewith I am enclosing copy of the action taken by the Senate on the report of the Committee on Simplified Spelling. I shall presently correspond with presidents of the universities in the Association and get their views on the matter. When I hear from them I will inform you as to the situation.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. A. H. Tolman,
The University of Chicago.

COPY

Chicago, April 7, 1913

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The University of Chicago.

COPY

III. The following report of the Committee on Simplified Spelling was presented by Mr. Manly:

"The Committee recommends: (1) that a reply be sent to Augustana College, stating that the University of Chicago deems it at present inadvisable to use the simplified spelling in its official publications. (2) That the Senate request the President either to propose the question of simplified spelling for discussion by the Association of American Universities or to confer with the presidents of the larger American universities in regard to the advisability of concerted action by the universities largely engaged in publication".

President

Illinois State Teachers Association

Ofis of

Standing Committee on Simplified Spelling

(Created 1902)

OAK PARK, ILL., Dec. 30, 1912

My Dear Dr. Judson:

I am aware of the possibility that the question of adopting a definit set of simplified spellings in the publications & correspondence of the Univ. of Chi. may come in time before your Senate, or Council, or whatever you term your governing body in such a matter.

I am not quite sure that it is proper for me to make any inquiry as to who the men or who wil hav the final vote on the question & what wil be the parliamentary course. But I would like very much to know in regard to both matters whatever you may deem proper to let me know. If you deem my inquiry out of place you can ignore it & I wil understand your silence.

Maybe I do not need to tel you of the deep interest I hav taken in getting this question before the faculties of the colleges & universities of our state, or to assure you that there is no danger of my using such a list to the annoyance of any one or to the peril of my cause. But there are developments & more in prospect which it is reasonable

(over)

to presume that any candid & considerate man would be glad to know who is facing a vote on the question.

The original circular letter from Mr. Shoop which was sent to you last Spring you may not have preserved, & I enclose a type-written copy, as all the printed copies are gone. We should be glad to have it considered by any committee that may now take up the matter.

I presume you are aware that the University of Illinois by a decisive affirmative vote in its Senate, between 70 & 80 members, a few days ago, adopted for use in its publications a considerable portion of the recommendations contained in Circular 23. There is reason to hope that the number will be increased by supplementary action, particularly if neighboring universities take similar or identical action.

The enclosed call a copy of which I mailed to you the 21st inst, met with a more satisfactory response than was anticipated, - 14 men representing 4 colleges & one university spent an harmonious hour at table & appointed a committee to try to induce the colleges of our State to adopt whatever simplifications the universities may adopt. Six or seven had previously expressed their readiness to do so.

On my return from our Peoria meeting I found answers from two friends in neighboring States that they will lay the matter before their faculties (universities) next month & I feel quite hopeful of two or three other like answers from other states.

I am sure your personal interest in the success of this movement may be felt with all of us, that the action of your faculty, when it comes, will be of great weight with one body or other.

Very truly
E. D. Vail

I have a copy of the resolution passed by the State Teachers' Association to use it almost in the same way, & I am sorry if any satisfactory reply will not set the face for the U. of Chicago.

ILLINOIS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

OFFIS OF THE PRESIDENT

Chicago, May 18, 1912.

Dear Friend:

The Illinois State Teachers Association at its late meeting, December 27-28, adopted the recommendations of the Simplified Spelling Board in its Circular No.23, as the norm of spelling in the publications and correspondence of the Association, and the comparatively few simplifications involved appear in the publisht proceedings of the meeting, a volume of 238 pages now in the hands of the one thousand members. Of course the order of the Association, as you notis, has been obeyd in the spelling of this letter.

The Association directed its president to send a letter in its behalf, together with such literature as he might deem most suitable, to the President and members of the faculty of each institution of higher lerning in our State, respectfully requesting them to consider whether their institution may not wisely adopt the same rules of spelling in its official publications and correspondence. In accordance with this direction I enclose herein comprest and reliable matter bearing upon the subject of spelling reform with the request that you give fraternal regard to the desire of the Association as respects the use of these specific simplifications in the correspondence and publications of your institution. The President unites with the Association in soliciting due consideration of the economic value of this reform and of its importance as a factor in child welfare.

If you desire a copy of Circular No. 23, or any other literature on the subject, it you will give me plesure to see that you are supplied.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) John D. Shoop, President.

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If you desire a copy of Circular No. 23, or any other literature on the subject, you will give me pleasure to see that you are supplied.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) John D. Shoop, President.

Chicago, December 31, 1912

Dear Mr. Vaile:-

Your favor of the 30th inst. is received. The University Senate will finally pass on the spelling matter so far as the faculties are concerned. I should not suppose that their action would be final on official University publications, however, without the approval of the Board of Trustees. I hardly anticipate any speedy action.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. E. O. Vaile,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Chicago, December 31, 1912

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Your favor of the 30th inst. is received. The University Senate will finally pass on the appealing matter so far as the faculties are concerned. I should not suppose that their action would be final on official University publications, however, without the approval of the Board of Trustees. I hardly anticipate any speedy action.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. H. O. Valle,
Oak Park, Illinois.

This sign of progress
may interest you.

Pres. University or College.

Dear Sir:

A number of the professors in the universities and colleges of our state wil attend the meeting of the College Section of the Illinois State Teachers Association at Peoria, Dec. 26-28.

In several of our faculties the question of officially adopting a definit amount of simplified spelling is being agitated, as you may be aware, and it is felt that it would be of advantage if those university and college people who approve some such step could get together and exchange views on some of the practical points involvd in taking the step. Hence we ask all such who attend the Peoria meeting, to come together at a midday lunch, 12 m., Friday, Dec. 27, for a conference. The eating place will be announst at the morning session of the College Section.

Wil you kindly convey this notis to as many of your faculty members as may be practicabl.

C. L. Esbjorn, Augustana College,
Nathaniel Butler, University of Chicago,
A. R. Taylor, James Millikin University.
Thos. McClelland, Knox College,
R. E. Hieronymus, State Ed. Commission,
Geo. O. Curme, Northwestern University.

December 20, 1912

Pres. University or College.

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December 20, 1912