

now and I want to be able to say something." Mr. Lord replied that he thought the spirit of the Board's attitude had been lived up to.⁵⁴

One religious group, the "Ambraw Association of Separate Baptists," at their annual meeting held near Charleston on September 24 and 25, 1909, resolved that as an association they protested "against the practice of dancing in the Eastern Illinois State Normal School", and condemned Mr. Lord's attitude. This protest they forwarded to Governor Deneen, who passed it on to Mr. Lord, without further comment. Mr. Lord replied to the Governor, explaining the situation in some detail:

In regard to dancing in this school, may I state that during the first nine years of its existence dancing was not permitted in the school. The students had dances in one or another of the town halls. Since the gymnasium was finished last winter, however, there has been little dancing there with the permission and approval of the faculty, and under their supervision. There has been less dancing among our students since it has been thus permitted than there was before and a vast improvement in the behavior of students while dancing. The little dancing done here now is such that most parents would be glad to have their sons and daughters participate in it. In all probability, there is and has been less dancing per capita here than in the University or in any other Normal School in the State.⁵⁵

Among those who wrote to Mr. Lord expressing confidence in him was a minister, the Reverend Jasper L. Douthit, manager of the Lithia Springs Chatauqua, near Shelbyville, before which Mr. Lord had spoken on two occasions. Mr. Douthit wrote: "I know nothing of this case from your standpoint; but I have too much confidence in your character and good sense to believe that these attacks upon you are justifiable. I do not mistrust you in the least. You can stand this storm of opposition better than your critics. . . . By the way, I have resolved to invite you for the third time to make an address at the Chatauqua. Will you come?"⁵⁶

Mr. Lord consistently minimized the seriousness of the attacks on him and on the school. To a former student, Roscoe Farrar, who had written expressing concern, Mr. Lord replied that "Students and teachers here scarcely know that anything has happened and the school is going on as well as it ever did. Don't you worry about us a bit."⁵⁷ To his friend Senator Pemberton, who was worried lest the attacks on the school injure its standing, Mr. Lord wrote, "I beg to assure you

⁵⁴Letters, B. H. Pinnell to L. C. Lord, May 19, 1909; L. C. Lord to B. H. Pinnell, May 22, 1909. Lord Letterbooks, No. 24.

⁵⁵Letters, Governor Charles S. Deneen to L. C. Lord, October 8, 1909; L. C. Lord to Governor Deneen, October 12, 1909, Lord Letterbooks, No. 9.

⁵⁶Letter, Jasper L. Douthit, Shelbyville, to L. C. Lord, February 27, 1909. Lord Letterbooks, No. 9. Others writing to Mr. Lord in support of his position included a Coles County rural teacher (Kathrine Morgan to L. C. Lord, March 1, 1909), a teacher at Alton, Illinois ("Mr. Lord is worth a thousand of such men as the evangelist."), Marguerite McGinnis to L. C. Lord, March 10, 1909 (quoting principal of Lincoln School, Alton), and A. S. Draper, former president of the University of Illinois, then Commissioner, New York State Department of Education (A. S. Draper to L. C. Lord, May 6, 1909), in Lord Letterbooks, Nos. 9, 23, 30.

⁵⁷Letter, L. C. Lord to Roscoe Farrar, March 23, 1909. Lord Letterbooks, No. 15.