

PC1/1/7/27/11



COPY OF LETTER FROM PROF. HOERNLE.

University of Witwatersrand,
JOHANNESBURG.

13. IX. 27.

Dear Hofmeyr,

I thank you for the trouble you have taken, in your letter of 6th inst., to give me your view of my candidature for the Principalship.

Taking the long view, the only thing that matters is the good of the University. This seems to me now to require a healing of the wide breach which recent events have opened up between the majority of the Council which followed your lead, and the majority of Senate which was for me and against Raikes.

My future relations to you will, so far as possible, be governed by this consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R.F. Alfred Hoernle.

DRAFT OF LETTER TO PROFESSOR HOERNLE

6/14/27

Dear Professor Hoernle,

I understand that it is commonly stated that I am largely responsible for the appointment of Raikes to the Principalship in preference to yourself and that my opposition to you is based on some personal grudge or grievance.

I am writing this letter as I do not wish there to be any misunderstanding between us.

Although it would seem that the extent of my influence and responsibility in this matter is very considerably exaggerated, it is perfectly correct that I some time ago formed the opinion that, valuable as your services are to the University as Professor, it would not be in its best interests to have you as its Principal and that I have expressed that opinion in Council.

That opinion may be right or it may be wrong, but it has been honestly formed and has not been actuated by any considerations personal to myself.

I want you to know this, because I would not like you to think that as far as I am concerned there is any element of personal feeling which need affect my relations with a former teacher and a former colleague of my own.