

C O P Y

THE KILGEN ORGAN COMPANY
4443 Cook Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

November 7, 1941

Dr. Earl E. Harper
Chairman, Music Committee
The State University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Re: First Methodist Church

Dear Doctor Harper:

Your letter of November 4th has been received, and we very much appreciate the consideration and forbearance of yourself and the Committee during these trying times.

We have tried to be as frank as possible in dealing with your good Committee, and as you recall, we mentioned on several occasions that delivery dates were uncertain today. It is true that we had accumulated sufficient material for the organ in so far as major items are concerned. However, the unusual condition exists today that we will hear that certain materials are growing short, such as zinc or tin, lead or brass, and we will immediately accumulate stocks in advance of these materials to avoid running out of them.

Suddenly without warning we will hear that the most ordinary items will be hard to get, such as copper wire, solder or bronze, and as a result we never know what to expect next.

We did anticipate shortages in the major items and we did do what Mr. Schmitt explained, accumulate stocks of these, but we did not anticipate shortages on hundreds of little ordinary items, any one of which can delay the production of an organ.

You know of the delays in delivery of motors and generators. For instance, the organ we are building for the First Methodist Church at Ottumwa, Iowa, was completely finished in our factory and ready for shipment except for some very small items, such as ordinary steel, less than fifty pounds of it, and yet, we could not ship that organ until this arrived. Then, of course, when it arrived it was delivered in about a week's time and is now being installed.

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The same is true of generators and motors. We will order them months in advance, only to be told a week before the date for their scheduled shipment that they cannot ship and they do not know when they will be able to do so.

Despite these conditions we are making steady progress and have been able to overcome each difficulty that arises, even though there is a delay connected with the removal of the obstacle.

And of course, you understand that whether it be under present day conditions or during the last war we have never resorted to the use of cheap substitutes, but have asked the churches to be patient and get the best rather than a substitution.

In regard to the feelings of some members of the Committee who seem to be critical about paying for the organ in advance, we do hope you will explain to them that this was not done at our suggestion and that by paying in advance they were able to save pretty close to \$600.00.

Those who feel that the delivery date of the organ may be set back because payment has been made in advance are really doing us an injustice. The place on our delivery schedule of your organ has not been changed in any way due to the fact that it has been paid for. In fact, it is only those of us in the management that know that the instrument has been paid for, neither the factory foreman nor the foremen of the various departments, nor the men themselves know of this, and thus, there has been no change in any way in its production schedule because of this fact.

As we mentioned, we are just as anxious as you are to complete and deliver this organ, and you may be assured we are doing everything humanly possible to accomplish this object, and while these difficulties arise we are overcoming them, and unless something unforeseen happens, we expect to ship the organ from the factory in January.

Again our thanks for your kind cooperation, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Very truly yours,

THE KILGEN ORGAN COMPANY

By: (Signed) Eugene R. Kilgen
President

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