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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [September 25, 1940]

Virginia Brainard

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Roberts Hall
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa
Sept. 25, 1948

Dear Daddy and Mother,

I need an answer to this right away. I told you before that they've enrolled me in Economics 384 which is Sociology — just the course you wanted me to take at home next summer under Dr. Zeleng so I went in to see my counselor about changing my program and there's not a single thing that can be done about it. That's why they put that course on my schedule. I can't take one other subject — not one will work in — in place of that Econ. course. Everything else I either got credit for in transferring or won't fit my program or can't be taken until I've taken some other course first.

Now, the only thing I can do if I don't want to take the course until next summer is drop it entirely and

carry only 13 hours instead of 15. It would be an easier load for me to carry this first quarter and I'd have more time to put in on Tech. I. - which is simply staggering in what it demands from us whether we're new or not - and on Chemistry. In spite of the extra time I'd have for studying and the lighter schedule, I wouldn't even consider dropping the course if it weren't for the instructor I've drawn. He's very young and inexperienced and is going to school here besides teaching. He's a poor teacher and I don't feel that I'll get anything out of the course at all. There's no comparison between what I'd learn from him and what I could get out of Dr. Zeleny's course and I just will not take a poor course like that here when I can get such a fine one at home.

What I want to know is this: will carrying just 13 hours instead of 15 hours set me back? and if so, will it set me back very much? Honestly, he is the worst teacher I've ever seen and I just hate to take such a lousy course here when I can get such a strong one at home.

2 Besides that side of it, carrying a lighter schedule will make all the difference in the world in my work. My speech class has all juniors and seniors in it and my journalism class is just filled with girls who've been around here for at least a year and know their way around.

So I'm going to drop the course but I wish you'd check my credits again, Daddy, and see if losing two hours this fall quarter would set me back very much. If it's going to make a really great difference in my program, of course I won't drop it, but it's really the wisest thing for me to do and I can't see that two hours this fall will make an awful lot of difference because I'm so ~~many~~ far ahead on my electives as it is.

Will you please let me know right away? I can drop the course any time before mid-term but the longer I stay in it, the harder it will be to explain why I want to drop it. I explained the

whole thing to my counselor and she said that she'll handle it any way that I decide. So I want to let her know pretty soon.

Everything else is swell here. I like school and I'm so busy every minute that I don't have time to think of a thing except what's going on one minute to the next. It's really a wonderful feeling having so much to do all the time. In High School and at T.C. I never had enough to do and that's why I started boasting all my time. Here I haven't got any time to waste! It's really a most wonderful feeling.

My expenses are mounting up. I'm enclosing another itemized account. Most of it went for a book and supplies. I had to buy a blouse, too. It was so hot we didn't have anything light to wear and I nearly fainted. But it's cooled off, now, and I feel better.

Am I getting a laundry box? Do you want me to send my laundry home?

Please write—

Love, Virginia