The American colony in Berlin has been intensely disturbed and shocked by the unjust statements which have reached the American and international press in connection with Professor Einstein's experience at the American Consulate in Berlin.

The reports made in the press are based on misconception of facts when it is stated that Professor Einstein was subjected to an unnecessary and gruelling questioning by the American Consul.

Actually every foreigner who wishes to obtain a visa for entry into the United States is required by law to appear in person before an American Consul and this is unavoidable. Although every fairness and courtesy is extended to all who have business with the American Consulate in Berlin, such special consideration was given to Professor Einstein as is due to a man of his international reputation.

His examination was conducted not only in conformity with legal requirements but also with a view to assist Professor Einstein's smooth and undisturbed entry into the United States.

We know the official, Consul Raymond H. Geist, who questioned Professor Einstein, to be too efficient and courteous to have subjected Professor Einstein to any but the most necessary routine, or to have caused him any unnecessary inconvenience.

The inexactness of the statements in the press is evident from the fact that Consul General Messeersmith, against whom personal criticism is made of his supposed examination of Professor Einstein, was absent from town on official business when Professor Einstein visited the Consulate.

Americans in Berlin find in Consul General Messeersmith not only a most efficient official but also a warm friend, who has instilled into the consular office here a spirit of fairness and courtesy.

In justice to all concerned, the American Women's Club, the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, and the American Club, have sent the following cable to the Secretary of State in Washington:

Berlin, December 10, 1938.

To the
Honorable Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

In view of the misunderstandings which have arisen
in connection with the visa case of Professor Einstein, and particularly in view of the statements which have appeared in the press with regard to the manner in which it has been represented that Professor Einstein was received and questioned at the Consulate General in Berlin, the governing boards of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, of the American Women's Club, and of the American Club, these organizations representing the entire American colony in Germany, feel it necessary to bring the following facts to your attention:

1. There are certain formalities which, it is well known, all persons other than American citizens have to comply with before proceeding to the United States, and we know that the Consulate General in Berlin received Professor Einstein with the courtesy due to one of his international reputation, and that it carried out these unavoidable legal formalities with every consideration. Aside from our positive knowledge, of the considerate treatment accorded Professor Einstein, it is inconceivable to us that an exception could have been made in his case from the invariable courtesy extended to all persons - Americans and others - calling at the Consulate General.

2. The misunderstandings which have characterized the public accounts of the incident and which misled certain American associations are best illustrated by the fact that the particular object of criticism, Consul General George Messersmith, has never met Professor Einstein. Professor Einstein applied for his visa on Monday morning, December 5th, when Mr. Messersmith was absent on an inspection tour to the Consulate at Breslau, in consequence of instructions from the State Department. Thus, all criticism of Mr. Messersmith's alleged conduct of the interrogation of Mr. Einstein is obviously baseless.

It has been the invariable experience of the American residents in Berlin that the American Consulate General under Mr. Messersmith has provided the public with a service that can only be described as exemplary, not only in efficiency, but in courtesy. The American colony of Berlin wishes particularly to emphasize its high opinion of the character and conduct of Mr. Messersmith, who during his period of service in Germany has enjoyed a literally unparalleled prestige and popularity. It is singularly unfortunate that Mr. Messersmith should have been depicted as a bureaucrat who questioned Mr. Einstein like a school boy. Of all men in the American foreign service with whom we Americans have had contact, Mr. Messersmith is distinguished particularly by his elimination of bureaucratic methods, and would be the last conceivable person to have employed them in the case of Professor Einstein. We feel, therefore, all the more keenly the injustice of the criticism that has been levelled at Mr. Messersmith and are convinced that correction of the misapprehensions upon which the criticism was based is necessary and will be welcomed by those misled.
misled through faulty information.

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