REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE GEORGE S.
MESSERSMITH, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO
MEXICO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE BROAD-
CASTING AT 3:15 P. M. ON SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12, OVER THE COLUMBIA BROAD-
CASTING SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES,
OF A REHEARSAL AND PRESENTATION OF
A MEXICAN MUSICAL COMPOSITION PLAYED
BY THE ORQUESTA FILARMONICA DE MEXICO
DIRECTED BY MR. ERICH KLEIBER.

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It has been an unusual pleasure for me to be present
during this rehearsal of the Orquesta Filarmonica de
México under the leadership of that great artist, and
good friend of mine, Erich Kleiber. I am happy that
through the courtesy of the Columbia Broadcasting System
this somewhat unusual musical treat is being brought from
Mexico City to my countrymen at home.

Musical appreciation and understanding in this
Mexican metropolis of over one and one-half million souls
is highly developed. The Mexican people love music and
have an old and fine musical tradition which is an im-
portant part of the cultural life of the country. It is
satisfying to know that increasingly much of the best in
Mexican music is becoming better known in the United
States, just as much of the best of our own music is now
becoming better known and appreciated in Mexico. The
orchestra to which you have been listening, the Philharmonic
one of
Orchestra of Mexico City, is the leading musical organiza-
tion in this country of twenty million people. It has

been
been my privilege and pleasure to hear its interpretation of the great masterpieces of the composers of the Old World and the New World and its performance equals that of the orchestras of the capitals of the Old World and of my own country.

Erich Kleiber, who is directing this orchestra as a guest conductor in a series of concerts in Mexico City these days, is an old and cherished friend of mine whom I have heard directing the leading orchestras in European capitals where he ranked as one of the great and most appreciated conductors. We in the Americas are fortunate that Erich Kleiber has seen fit to throw his lot with us, and in more than one country of the Americas he is performing a most useful service in building up under his masterful leadership and direction the orchestras in our great capitals. I have enjoyed his music and his friendship for many years and I am happy to say that he is not only the great artist which the world so well knows him to be, but also a man of courage, convictions, sympathies and understanding which entitle him to the same high regard as a man which we have for him as an artist.