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Berlin, Germany, January 3, 1933.

Dear Milton:

I have your letter of December 29 and the same day I received it I happened to meet Eichberg at the Embassy, who told me that he had just seen you. I hope you all had a very pleasant Christmas and that the New Year will bring you and Erica and the children all good things. We stayed here and had a very quiet but very pleasant Christmas and New Year.

I need not tell you that I appreciated what the Club did and the sending of the telegram. It was really most extraordinary what publicity this case had in America and I doubt whether it is all over yet as such a morsel as this is always one out of which the newspapers are loath to take their teeth. I think that although the facts are pretty well understood at home now and the editorial comment particularly which has been very wide has been growing more sane, the fact remains that human nature being as it is, first impressions are the ones which stick, and in the minds of a lot of people I will be associated with bureaucratic procedure and considered as a narrow-minded and routine officer. This in itself is not so dangerous, as I think most worth while people now understand that I had nothing to do with it and that the Consulate was entirely correct and that Einstein behaved like a big, bad boy. But the incident has cast certain doubt on our visa practice which I think is most unfortunate as that impression too, will stick with the public. Anyone who knows anything about it knows that our Consuls have carried out our immigration laws with unusual discretion and while they have been zealous they have been most considerate.

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The consular service as a matter of fact, deserves unusual praise and credit for the big piece of work which it is doing in connection with immigration, particularly in these times. But the effort of years of conscientious work can be destroyed by ill-considered or unfounded newspaper criticism or comment. So far as the personal effects of the incident are concerned, I think the prompt action of the Department and of my friends saved any real lasting damage, but in other respects the incident has been most unfortunate. But it is one of those things that happens every once in a while, which no one can avoid. If we had been free to talk, I am afraid that it would have been a serious blow to Einstein's prestige and this too, might not have been bad. Einstein in Germany is not nearly the big man that he is in America, and I predict that the Einstein bubble is going to be pricked in a few years just the same as the Keyserling reputation has been dissipated into thin air. You remember how a few years ago everybody spoke of Keyserling as the great prophet and philosopher. Now we know that he was not much better than a charlatan. There is very grave doubt as to whether Einstein is the man we have made out of him in America. We have a peculiar way of building up these legends around these people and then of puncturing them.

In any event I appreciate tremendously the interest which my friends took and I shall never fail to be grateful. Marion joins me in love to you and Erica and the children. We hope we may see you in Berlin some time before too long.

Cordially yours,

