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May 16, 1939.

My dear Mr. Haskell:

I appreciate very much your note of May 12 as well as a copy of the editorial which you were good enough to publish in THE STAR with regard to the consolidation of the Foreign Services. The editorial is very helpful and constructive and it was good of you to go to this trouble.

The Senate has, as you know, approved the second plan of which the consolidation of the Foreign Services is a part. The approval of one House, in view of the provisions of the Reorganization Act, is sufficient. I think you will be interested to know that there has been very wide editorial comment on the consolidation of the Foreign Services and I believe it is generally looked upon throughout the country as one of the most constructive things that could be done under the reorganization program. The comment in the press throughout the country has not only been wide, but altogether favorable. I was in New York yesterday at the suggestion of a group of some forty heads of important companies in the export field who had expressed an interest in hearing of what is actually planned. They were enthusiastic in their approval of this consolidation and like many others, expressed wonder that it had not been done long before. The reception in the Congress, as you know, has been very good also irrespective of party. Senator Vandenburg remarked to me the other day that it was an excellent move and he only wondered why it had not been done before. Yesterday there developed in the House some discussion unfavorable to the consolidation by two of the members of the House and it was pitiful to note that neither of them knew what they were talking about or were merely speaking out of prejudice.

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Mr. H.J. Haskell,
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I am convinced that in a year's time all of our interests in this country will be deeply appreciative of this step having been taken as it is so obviously one in the public interest.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

A-M:GSM:MT