

Dec 11

CONSUL IS ASSAILED IN GRILL OF EINSTEIN

Immediate Dismissal Urged
in Freethinkers' Protest
to Stimson.

A communication asking for the immediate dismissal of the American consul general in Berlin for the "utterly stupid and insulting treatment accorded Prof. Einstein" was received yesterday by Secretary of State Stimson from the Freethinkers of America.

Secretary Stimson declared, after receiving a report of the incident from Berlin, that he believed Prof. Einstein's questioning at the consulate had been "conducted civilly." He said American officials had acted properly, but that their purpose had been misunderstood by Einstein.

Text of Communication.

The Freethinkers' missive read:

"We wish to protest against the utterly stupid and insulting treatment accorded Prof. Einstein by the American consul general in Berlin."

"Prof. Einstein is not a political agitator, but a great scientist. His intellectual achievements make him a citizen of the world. The United States should be proud that he honors us with a visit."

"It is quite probable that the American consul general in Berlin doesn't know the difference between a political agitator and a great scientist, and for that reason we ask his dismissal."

Send Cable to Scientist.

At the same time the Freethinkers addressed a cable to the German scientist. It stated:

"Please do not judge the people of this country by the stupidity of some of its subordinate officeholders or the narrow-mindedness of some of its officials."

"Your intellectual achievements make you a citizen of the world. You are above racial ties and national boundaries. Your name alone is your passport for any country in the world. Be assured that the intelligent people of the United States will not only welcome you, but feel honored by your presence. The Freethinkers of America send their greetings."

Both communications were signed by Joseph Lewis, president of the Freethinkers.

Einstein Sails, Hoping Quiz Incident Is Closed

Bremerhaven, Germany, Dec. 10 (A. P.).—Before sailing today on the steamer Oakland for the United States, Prof. Albert Einstein said he hoped no summary action would be taken against the American consular official who subjected him to questioning about his political beliefs when he applied for a visa early this week.

The professor is going to California, where he will resume his research work at Mount Wilson Observatory, and later to Princeton, N. J., where he will become head of the school of mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study.

Before catching the Bremen train from Berlin the professor said that so far as he was concerned the questioning at the consulate was a closed incident. The questioning resulted apparently from a protest by the Woman Patriot Corporation, which asked that the eminent scientist be barred from the United States, asserting that he was a Communist.

"The trouble with hearings of that kind," the professor said, "is that you don't realize until some time has passed just where the inquisitor is trying to get under your skin. I suggest in the future consuls put pins in their victims' chair so they will feel struck from the beginning."

As the train pulled out the professor raised his finger with mock sternness and said to his daughters: "Now, be sure to behave while papa is away."

American Berlin Groups Defend Consul General

Berlin, Dec. 10 (A. P.).—The American Chamber of Commerce, the American Women's Club and the American Club jointly cabled the State Department in Washington tonight protesting against criticisms of Consul General George Messersmith over the Einstein visa incident.

Mr. Messersmith was absent from the consulate when the famous scientist was questioned about his political beliefs, the cable said, adding a tribute to Mr. Messersmith's efficiency and courtesy.