

Paris, Wednesday, December 14, 1932

HERALD, PARIS, WEDNESDAY

WRITER RETRACTS ATTACK ON CONSUL IN EINSTEIN AFFAIR

Walter Lippmann With-
draws Criticism of Mes-
sersmith in Berlin.

(By Wireless to The Herald.)

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—Walter Lippmann, New York Herald Tribune political commentator, today retracts his criticisms of George S. Messersmith, American consul-general in Berlin, following the latter's exoneration by the state department of the accusation of discourtesy to Professor Albert Einstein in granting a visa to the noted physicist.

Under the caption of "Justice to Mr. Messersmith," Mr. Lippmann writes:—

"I have received the following telegram from Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson: 'Referring to your criticism of George S. Messersmith, American consul-general at Berlin, in connection with the visaing of a passport for Professor Einstein, I am now informed that Mr. Messersmith was absent on telling official business at the time. But Professor Einstein was received by the officer in charge and, with the utmost courtesy and consideration, was given the examination required by the law and regulations, after which the visa was granted. Doubtless you will wish to correct your statement concerning Mr. Messersmith, who was so unjustly attacked.'

"I am, of course, glad to withdraw my criticism of Mr. Messersmith, since it now appears from news stories from Berlin to have incorrectly placed on him responsibility for the affair. Further, the implication from Secretary Stimson's telegram is that nobody should be blamed.

"This seems to me to be unsatisfactory. Somebody was responsible. Mr. Messersmith's absence from Berlin does not exonerate the officials in Washington and Berlin who administered the law in a manner which is lacking in intelligence and common-sense.

"The odium should be transferred from the innocent shoulders of Mr. Messersmith to the anonymous ones of the bureaucrats who actually did provoke this ludicrous incident."