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THE WASHINGTON POST

Sunday, December 11, 1932

PROF. EINSTEIN'S CASE.

Much unnecessary indignation has been wasted over the fact that Prof. Albert Einstein was required to appear in person before an American consul to answer questions intended to clarify his status under the laws relating to the admission of aliens. It now appears that neither favoritism nor prejudice entered into the proceeding. Prof. Einstein was asked the usual questions propounded to an alien, and upon his satisfactory answers a visa was granted to him. Allegations that he was inadmissible under certain sections of the immigration law were shown to be unfounded.

The law exempts government officials from the rule requiring personal appearance before consuls to determine the admissibility of aliens. On Prof. Einstein's previous visit to the United States he enjoyed an official status and was granted a visa without personal examination. Apparently he was greatly annoyed when it became necessary on this occasion to visit the consulate and answer the questions which are propounded to all aliens who are not government officials. Some of his admirers in this country jumped to the conclusion that he was subjected to an unusual and discriminatory inquisition, and they accordingly denounce the consul as a boor for insulting a man who commands the world's highest respect. Their own ignorance of the law leads them to attack the officers who are faithfully attending to the interests of the United States.

The immigration law, like all other laws, is intended to apply to all persons without regard to their eminence or obscurity. If it could be manipulated to grant special favors to an individual because of his great distinction it could be used to inflict injustice upon the friendless. Consul General Messersmith, stationed at Berlin, is an experienced and highly capable official, whose examination of Prof. Einstein was conducted with courtesy and justice. Prof. Einstein enters the

United States because he is admissible and acceptable, and not because of any special favor resulting from twisting of the law.

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