

Promotion President Roosevelt has again revealed his extreme but quiet concern over Europe by recalling George Messersmith from Austria to become Assistant Secretary of State. Only a few days ago he showed his need for an expert on European intrigue by transferring Hugh Wilson from Geneva to become a Hull assistant. Mr. Messersmith is one of our ablest career diplomats. From his Vienna outpost he followed fluctuations in the fortunes of Mussolini and Hitler and their Balkan puppets. Nobody has a more intimate understanding of central European developments. For years he has been the chief diplomatic contact of American newspaper correspondents who wanted the inside and the lowdown, talking with them "off the record." Likewise he sent Secretary Hull a twelve-page letter — confidential — on economic, military and diplomatic trends two or three times a week. State Department wags said that he ran an international correspondence school.

Both the Messersmith and Wilson promotions score another gain for the new Roosevelt-Welles policy. Though officially neutral, both Mr. Messersmith and Mr. Wilson entertain strong anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist views. From their insight and experience abroad they figure that Uncle Sam's only game is to mind its own business.