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Amsterdam, December 16, 1932.

To the Editor of the Paris Herald,

Sir:

I have your edition of December 14th in which Mr. Walter Lippmann retracts, with reservation, his criticisms of Mr. George S. Messersmith, Consul General in Berlin. His reservation is that "officials in Washington and Berlin administer the law in a manner which is lacking in intelligence and commonsense." I am afraid Mr. Lippmann's dyspepsia is getting worse. I know little about officials in Berlin and still less about those in Washington but my intermittent knowledge of and contact with American Governmental officials in a dozen foreign countries during many years has shown them to be uniformly courteous, efficient and helpful.

The "ludicrous incident" as Mr. Lippmann unhappily describes it, reflects mostly on himself. How many other of his statements of fact and his interpretation of them are equally "ludicrous"?

I have not seen any retraction from the group of patriotic (?) women - who were associated with Mr. Lippmann in the unfortunate affair. Doubtless they will plead feminine immunity. From a distance it would appear they found in him an easy mark, a receptive dupe.

Ruthless and brutal public attacks of this sort on responsible Governmental representatives abroad are altogether to be deplored. When their prestige is destroyed, the prestige of our country suffers as do the Americans who are in business in the countries inclined. When disciplinary measures are necessary, as they occasionally are in all large organizations, the indicated channel is internal and noiseless; certainly not through resolutions of misguided women or by abuse of overwrought columnists.

signed: C.W. Whittemore.