

Berlin, Germany, December 23, 1932.

Dear Avegno:

I wrote you on December 12 in reply to your telegram and to your letter of December 10, and I have since seen in the New York Herald that you were good enough to send a telegram to the Secretary which I very much appreciate. Someone was also good enough to send me a copy of the clipping from the Neptune of December 17 at the end of which the Club's telegram to the Secretary is quoted. I wish you would tell all those who joined in the sending of this telegram how sincerely I appreciate their very generous gesture.

The article from the Neptune, although it is intended to be friendly, shows how the newspapers can go off on these things and give an entirely wrong impression. It says: "Mr. Einstein patiently listened to formal queries about his ancestral history, sanity and health without impressing his important identity upon the unsuspecting official." Even Mr. and Mrs. Einstein did not give out any information of this kind as they knew thoroughly that they had been received by Mr. Geist and that he knew who they were. I sometimes wonder how it is possible for the newspapers to say what they do. Of course in this Einstein incident what was really at issue was our visa practice because too many of them saw an opportunity to attack our immigration laws and regulations. The editorial in the ~~Herald~~-Tribune of December 22 which I suppose you have seen, is very sensible. There are a lot of big men going to the United States every day who have to get visas at American Consulates and some of them are far bigger in reality than Einstein. It is not

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our custom to ask these men at any Consulate silly questions with regard to their ancestry and opinions. On the contrary, we lighten the formalities of the law and it is of course ridiculous to think that Einstein should have been subjected to such an inquisition. The whole thing is really discouraging, if not disgusting. We are supposed to depend upon the newspapers for our information concerning various things, but we certainly cannot depend upon them very much. An incident such as this robs even the unsuspecting and the uninformed of their faith in what they read. That is both a good and a bad thing.

I want to tell you once again how much I appreciate your having taken the initiative in the matter of sending this telegram. With best wishes for a very happy Christmas holiday in which Marion joins me, and for a New Year filled with all good things,

Cordially yours,

