

Berlin, Germany, December 23, 1932.

Dear Mitchell:

I appreciate very much your letter of December 13 sending the second clipping from the Herald Tribune. I wrote you the other day quite fully with regard to this matter. The Secretary has been really wonderful about it and has shown himself to be the good sportsman that some of us knew him to be. He went to the bat on this thing when he had his mind occupied with some very weighty matters, but he was not going to allow me or anyone else to suffer for something that we had not done, and that is the sort of thing that makes one attached to a chief and is after all the human and decent attitude. I have received letters and telegrams from all over and tremendously appreciate the way in which my friends came to my rescue. I do think that Lippmann should have gone further, but he found himself in an awful hole and I suppose he felt that he could not go further with his readers than he did because they must believe in his infallibility. I felt, however, that he appealed to a higher type of audience and wished to write for thinking people. It is just that class who will see that his "amende honorable" was a good deal lacking and aside from the point so that I am afraid he will come out of this a good deal smaller than he went into it.

Although a good deal of the right kind of material has now been published on the incident and some very good editorials have appeared, the first impression is the one that sticks with a

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lot of people and I am afraid that in the minds of a good many I shall always be a synonym for assininity and narrow-mindedness. I think everything that could be done has been done, and I certainly appreciate what you did. We had a nice letter from Mr. Martin the other day.

What I do hope is that Einstein, when he gets to the United States, will have learned that it is not a good thing to mix in the internal affairs of a country in which one is a guest and a stranger. The long and short of it, just between ourselves, is that Mrs. Einstein cannot be depended upon to give a straight version and she is more responsible for what happened than he. But he cannot be absolved from all the blame. I have never felt that Einstein is the great man we have made him into in the United States. He is certainly not so considered here in Germany and not through jealousy either, but simply because they know him better. If he is really a great philosopher, he is the first one who has sought publicity and popularity and kept himself before the public eye. I do not think that history can show us a single great philosopher or learned man who proved it to have been one, who did not lead a retiring and modest life and who shrank from publicity. As a general thing too, they stuck strictly to their last. Even Bernard Shaw came out the other day and indicated that Einstein had made a good deal of an ass of himself over this matter and had better stick to his business, and Shaw is the last man to rise to the defense of any Government or official. If an American, no matter how great or learned had come to Germany and mixed in affairs here as Einstein did on his last trip to the United States, he would have been deported. There are certain rules of hospitality which an alien must observe in a foreign country, which are just as rigorous as those which our guests must obey in our homes.

I suppose, however, a philosopher is not supposed to know anything about these things.

In any event the personal side of it seems to have been corrected and my office absolved of responsibility, but I cannot help but feel that the whole incident was from every point of view most regrettable and I sometimes think we may have been a little bit too lenient with some of the newspaper men over here whose hands are not entirely clean in this matter.

We had a very pleasant and a very quiet Chrisemas. We had twenty-four for dinner and some people came in afterwards. In spite of the hard times we have to keep on doing this. Some American composer, in fact our leading composer, Dr. Hansen of the Eastman School of Music, is coming over here to lead the Philharmonic Orchestra on the night of January 7 and I was very nicely told that I would be expected to give a reception afterwards, so that we have had to send out invitations to a buffet supper for some sixty people that evening. We are very happy to do it and always have done this sort of thing ever since we are in the Service, but with personal income gone and with official salary cut 33%, it is pretty hard and I can admit to you privately that it is no easy time to carry on under present conditions. We had our usual reception for the Americans in December, and had some one hundred seventy people, because we simply felt that we had to have it. We are having a series of two more for the Germans in January, and so it goes on. If one does not do these things one's power for usefulness is really gone and I am going to do the job as best I can and when I can't do it any more in what I believe to be a decent way, I shall have to ask for some insignificant post where there shall be no difficulty in doing what there is to be done on the salary.

I do hope that you are feeling your usual self again. I often think of you. We have both

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had to pass through pretty difficult times and I think both have too much conscience. After all, there is a certain satisfaction in it that no one can rob us of. My wife joins me in all good wishes to you both and to the family.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

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