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Berlin, Germany, December 27, 1932.



Dear Mr. Gary:

It was very good of you to write me sending me the clipping from the Herald Tribune with Walter Lippmann's very ungracious retraction of the most unjudicious and hasty comment he made on the Einstein case. He simply absolves me, but shifts responsibility on others and leaves the impression that there was an Einstein incident which I can assure you there wasn't. I am not going to bother you with the details and can only say that Einstein happened to apply for a visa while I was at Breslau on an inspection trip, but I had talked the matter over with my second man here, Geist, who is one of the best men we have, and he received Mr. and Mrs. Einstein himself when they did come in and the granting of the visa was facilitated in every possible way. Had Einstein not conducted his application for a visa with the press for at least a week before he came to the Consulate there would have been no trouble at all, and of course Mrs. Einstein was most injudicious (to be as kind as possible) in the statements she made to the press. The real difficulty was that the Einsteins knew that he had violated the laws of hospitality while he was in the United States, and were afraid that they might not get a visa, when as a matter of fact we had no intention whatever, neither did Washington, of not granting their visas without difficulty. We would only have made ourselves ridiculous and Einstein himself is entirely harmless but bothers with a lot of things he does not know anything about, and it is a grave question with a good many people who really know him

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how much he knows about anything. If he is a really great savant he is the first one who has interested himself in so many things having no bearing upon his particular field and who has quartered publicity and notoriety. The real scholar and the man who really achieves things usually endeavors to keep away from the limelight. In this respect, however, Mrs. Einstein is the greatest offender. I am not trying to shift anything on the Einsteins as I personally am totally disinterested in them. The only thing I am interested in is that he like anyone else who calls here for any services should be treated with consideration and courtesy and that is what was done. That the law requires a man to call personally for a visa, is something I have nothing to do with, but I do resent so many of our people at home having so little confidence in their Foreign Service officers as to believe that they would ask such silly questions as the newspapers put into our mouths of any decent person planning to go to the United States on a visit. We are willing to hold ourselves up to ridicule apparently on every occasion and believe the worst of ourselves in matters involving foreign countries, when as a matter of fact we have the cleanest record of any country in that respect. The Secretary behaved handsomely and I shall be eternally grateful to him for what he did to correct the wrong impression at home and for taking the personal interest in the situation which he did, at a time when he was exceedingly busy with things which are of even more importance than the career of a Foreign Service officer. He showed himself very human and considerate and the real sportsman whom some of us have always known him to be. As to Lippmann I really was surprised because he ought to know better and I am sorry that his retraction was not a little bit more generous, and that part of it is going to do him more harm than us. The personal aspect of the situation has been cleared up very satisfactorily so far as I am concerned, and I am deeply appreciative of my many friends for all that they did and for the energy with which they resented the attacks made on me. It has taught me once again that the finest thing there is in this world and the most precious thing we can accumulate, is friendships. What did concern me, however, was the attack on our visa system and practice under it by our consular officers. Instead of being criticized our consular

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officers have really carried our our immigration laws, which on the whole are wise, in a manner that is really extraordinarily effective, and with a discretion that deserves every commendation. I think anyone who travels knows that foreigners are received in American consular establishments with a great deal more courtesy and consideration than Americans who apply in foreign consulates at home and abroad. Further than that, our immigration practice is really the most liberal in the world. Any person desiring to visit the United States gets a visa without the slightest difficulty and even in these difficult times when we have relatively more unemployment than any other country in the world we are allowing thousands of people to come into our country every year to make a living, when practically every other country has made this impossible. In Germany, for example, no foreigner is admitted who comes here to work, and it took us two months to get the permission of the German Government to let the German branch of a big American company bring in an American engineer. One can say almost definitely that Germany, England and France will not let in anyone no matter how important he may be, for a permanent stay, or if he is going to make his living in the country. England with all her traditional liberalism is not letting in any of our people who will work for a salary or who do not have an assured income from outside the country. Certain large American companies having branch plants in England have been compelled to get rid of practically all their American executives and important engineers. It is no exaggeration to say that we have the most liberal immigration policy of any civilized country to-day, and yet we are constantly being crucified even by well informed sections of our press in America for our lack of liberality. I do not want to bore you with any of this but it does seem to me sometimes that we might have a few of our own people rise up in our defence at home with regard to these things instead of their holding us up to ridicule.

I am very much interested in what the new administration will do with regard to some of the more pressing problems. I do hope that there will not be any settlement of the debts until some of the major questions such as the limitation of armaments, tariffs, exchange and trade restrictions such as quotas and some of the political problems in Europe and in the Far East will

be adjusted through general agreement. I am not at all suspicious by nature and do not believe in large scale conspiracies and I have a very sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the problems of other countries, but I am convinced that there is a concert of action among our debtors to endeavor to bring about a settlement of the debts now and before these other matters are settled so that with the debts out of the way they can proceed to do as they please about these other things and make regional agreements leaving us very much out in the cold. There is I believe no doubt that some arrangements will have to be made with our debtors. We may again have to give them a complete moratorium for a year and at the end of that for another year, but the principle of the debts should be maintained until these other problems are settled. It is not only that they want the debts settled now so that they can have a free hand about these other things which they want to settle through us, but also because they know that any settlement which they can force us into now will be more favorable to them than any which they could get a few years hence. The situation in Germany has already tremendously improved, more than is generally understood and more than a good many wish to admit, and I have the conviction that recovery in Germany will be more rapid than in our own country. The importance of the debts in the economic machinery has been much exaggerated, but all with a purpose. I do not believe we shall ever get very much in the way of money out of the debts. Perhaps we may not wish to, but we must play this game as it is being played abroad, with our eyes wide open and not falling for propaganda. This is not the time for another generous gesture because we cannot afford it in the first place and second, because such a generous gesture at this time would affect our prestige and influence as nothing has in our history. I have the feeling that the new administration will handle this situation very effectively and I am delighted that we are going to have an administration at Washington with the Executive and the legislative branches of the same political color. The Democratic Party has an unusual number of first class men at its disposal and I am sure that Mr. Roosevelt is going to use them and that the policy of the Government is going to be definite so far as international matters are concerned in the protection of what are really our vital interests.

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We had a quiet but pleasant Christmas. The work here is very heavy, but very interesting. We shall be sorry to lose Mr. Sackett in March as he is a delightful person and very capable, but I feel confident that we will have a good man here and one who will be very helpful in a strategic position like Berlin. My wife joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Gary a very happy New Year filled with all manner of good things.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Mr. Hampson Gary,
253 Broadway,
New York City.

A true copy of
the signed original.