June 14, 1946

My dear Mrs. Wingard:

Forgive me if I address you somewhat formally, but I was not aware of having made your acquaintance. I have, however, met so many people that I realize I may be wrong in not addressing you by your first name, and if so I ask your forgiveness.

The subject matter of your letter seems to me very odd probably because you are so little aware of certain things that happen.

The Jewish people find themselves oft times "Jim Crowed" as you put it. I am not aware, however, that there is any particular kind of Jew who is attracted to this country. I know as great a variety of Jewish people as I know of Gentiles, or of Negroes. There is no particular type or group, and the sooner we learn that, the better it will be for all of us. There are bad people and good people; people with education and uneducated people in every group. There is a lack of understanding of people which creates racial and religious antagonisms, but I think we are doing better as time goes on. I can remember some of the things that went on at the end of the First World War but there is an improvement, especially among young people since this last War.

Very sincerely yours,
Dear Eleanor:

Because I so often find you lined up on the side of so-called minority groups, also because the KKK seems to be coming to life again I’d like to put a few questions to you.

Do you not believe that with our present programs trying to establish a better understanding between races we are doing the very opposite?

By that I mean that some of us do not know enough about the different habits of thought and conduct of other races and colors to one whom we take it for granted their way of life is like our own. I am thinking particularly of that class of Jews the U.S. seems to attract. He sees the lecture desk not to the Gentile public in our churches and schools and so publications to further his interests economically. Right there is where some religious leaders fail here. Instead of instructing the small citizen of Jewish parents in business administration on the day the small Gentile citizen is instructed in Bible stories isn’t it time that the Jewish leaders point out to their
People that there is one code of righteousness and it also includes Gentiles and is not an implement to which Jews are to be used as a club asking for racial tolerance which seems to mean the Gentile must accept all the schemes and cunning of the unscrupulous in the Jewish groups. They aren't Jim "Crowed," by the way, and they are on the opposite end of the economic scale. But they love to group themselves with the negro as a perpetual minority.

Europe doesn't want them and Britain shuts them out of Palestine - where they belong.

I cannot seem to put these thoughts into words without seeming to be anti-Semitic which I maintain I am not. I am against some of the most prevalent practices of that race which I feel contribute to the birth of anti-Semitic groups, and I believe Seniors do scheme to keep the public in ignorance of their true motives.

We need to be aware of those motives so that they do not injure all of us including themselves.

What do you think?

(Mrs. G.W.) Peggy Wingard
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