PPF 436
Lehman, Irving

PERSONAL

May 18, 1933.

Dear Irving:-

I am delighted to have your note and am only sorry that I could not see you when you were in Washington. I wish you could have been present when I was talking with Dr. Schacht. At last the German Government now knows how I feel about things. It is probably better to do it this way than to send formal notes of protest because, frankly, I fear that the latter might result in reprisals in Germany.

I do hope to see you one of these days soon. Herbert has done and is doing a fine job.

Give my best regards to your wife.

Always sincerely,

Hon. Irving Lehman,
36 West 44th Street,
New York, N. Y.

RT

State of New York,
Court of Appeals,

Irving Lehman
Judge

May 10th, 1933

Dear Franklin:-

Last week, when I attended the meeting of the Law Institute in Washington, I was very eager to have a chat with you, to tell you of my unbounded admiration for the manner in which you are leading the country out of its slough of despondency and my personal gratification at your sympathetic attitude towards matters which have been disturbing me. I felt, however, that it would be unfair to ask you, at this time, to see me

merely for my own pleasure.

As you see, I am still addressing you by the name you have permitted me, as a friend, to use in the past. In spite of your great position, I cannot feel that the friendship has changed and I hope that I may continue to call you by that name in private.

Faithfully

Irving Lehman

IRVING LEHMAN

ASSOCIATE JUDGE
COURT OF APPEALS
36 WEST 44TH ST.
NEW YORK

file

Albany, N. Y.,
May 24, 1933.

My dear Franklin:-

May I thank you most sincerely for your very kind letter. It brought a ray of hope into a very dark situation. Those in touch with conditions abroad know that present conditions in Germany are even worse for the Jews than is generally realized. We have come to the conclusion that in the present temper of the responsible leaders of the German government and their deluded followers, the only possible chance for bringing about a change in such conditions is by impressing upon Germany the fact that while these persecutions continue the trust and confidence essential to peace among nations and even to international trade cannot be attained.

The respect in which you personally are held by the entire world, perhaps even more than your great position, makes you today the acknowledged leader in world thought and international action. I think I can safely say that all the Jews of America, regardless of social status or group have been hoping and praying that in your wisdom you might find the means of conveying your views to the German government. That is why your letter has given me unbounded satisfaction.

I certainly never could doubt your abhorrence of what is going on, but letters sent by at least two Senators, notably Senator Patterson of Colorado, to Jewish constituents in regard to talks at the State Department have caused wide concern in others as to whether the State Department fully appreciated the situation. However, Secretary Hull has kindly arranged an interview with some of my friends for next Friday in which doubtless there will

IRVING LEHMAN

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be a frank exchange of views.

Probably you are aware of the fact that on Friday, May 12th, immediately upon his return from Washington, Dr. Schacht met at dinner a group composed both of Jews and prominent Christians which was followed by a conference lasting until two a. m. at which he was fully advised of the reactions in America to the German governmental policies. I think he was impressed, but surely not as much as by the expression of your own views. You will probably be amused to hear that Dr. Schacht said to me: "I was deeply impressed by the President. Such charm; such tact; such courage; such sincerity!—— He reminded me in every way of Hitler." You can imagine that it was somewhat difficult for me to restrain myself.

With renewed expressions of my confidence and gratitude, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Irving Lehman

LEHMAN, Hon. Irving
President, Jewish Welfare Board,
New York, N. Y.
April 22, 1937

The President wrote him that he has learned of plans for celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Welfare Board, and he recalls the service which this organization rendered to the men who were called to the colors in the World War. Indicates that is a happy circumstance of that tragic occurrence in our history that the Jewish Welfare Board continues to this day to bring the hand of fellowship to our boys in the Army and the Navy. Congratulates him upon his leadership of this social enterprise and extends to him and his associates best wishes for success in the service of our youth. -- Revised draft is attached, also letterhead of the Jewish Welfare Board.

P. P. F.
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SEE - PPF 4553