

PPF
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STEPHEN S. WISE
FORTY WEST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK

January 15, 1937.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chief:

Your recent address at the Pan-American Peace Conference is sure to have an abiding effect on the life of all those who, in the South and Central Americas, are visited by or in peril of oppression.

Did you note that at a session of the Polish Parliament a few days ago, Colonel Beck, Minister for Foreign Affairs, made the extraordinary, and for my people catastrophic, declaration that of the three and a half million Jews in Poland, three million are superfluous and must emigrate. If you read the statement, you must have recalled that President Wilson and our dear friend, Colonel House, did even more than Lloyd George and Clemenceau to make possible the political independence of Poland and to bring about the reconstituting of the Polish Republic.

Will you forgive me if I venture to say to you that on Wednesday just one word might be spoken by you that would bring solace and perhaps healing to the hearts of millions who have been terror-stricken by the utterance of the Polish government through its Foreign Minister.

As a result of your great leadership, our country did not forget those whom economic breakdown left without means, thirty to forty million people whom you refused to permit America to forget and to forsake. Oh! that you might say one word, dear Chief, on Wednesday, to the effect that wide as are the boundaries of our land, there is no room

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The President

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for forgotten men. Every American citizen is the subject of his country's interest and concern. Nor will the American Democracy ever hold any faithful and law-abiding group within its borders to be superfluous.

That, after all, is your conviction and you have lived and led by virtue of that faith. I beg this of you because your word next Wednesday will, of course, be listened to by the whole world and will serve as the inaugural of what I know will be an administration of world-wide influence for justice and for peace throughout the world.

With deep-felt good wishes for the next four years and for many more,

Ever yours,

Wise

P. P. F.

3292

January 23, 1937.

Dear Stephen Wise:-

Yours of January fifteenth came just in the nick of time -- i.e., when I was going over the final draft of the Inaugural ^{xPP7-10} speech. Your sentence, as you will have noticed, was included verbatim!

As ever yours,

Reverend Stephen S. Wise,
40 West 68th Street,
New York City,
New York.

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I see millions whose daily lives in city and on farm continue under conditions labelled indecent by a so-called polite society half a century ago.

I see millions denied education, recreation and the opportunity to better their lot and the lot of their children.

I see millions lacking the means to buy the products of farm and factory and by their poverty denying work and productiveness to many other millions.

I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished.

It is not in despair that I paint you that picture. I paint it for you in hope -- because the nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out.

We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country's interest and concern; and we will never regard any faithful law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.