

+ 170

January 20, 1920.

56 E 59 St. N.Y. City

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Supplementary to my telegram of even date I report as follows:- I find I cannot procure a passport without a delay of fully ninety days and hence feel it is not right for me to come to Chicago and make an expense bill that might be useless.

Naturalization

The facts are as follows:- As soon as I heard from you I began inquiries with reference to all practical details of a possible journey abroad and in reference to my application for a passport the officials report the law to be mandatory that in my case ninety days must elapse because under rulings which are now very strict I am not technically a citizen. My father was a Canadian who came to the United States in 1862, when I was only a few months old. My mother was an American. On or about the year 1882 in order to clear title for some property he went before the court in Chicago and took the oath of allegiance. The clerk in my presence told me that he had fully complied with the then law and that nothing further was necessary. When I appeared later for admission to the bar I also took an oath of allegiance and was informed that I was a full citizen of the United States. Of course the clerk was wrong in each case but I took his word as an official in authority and registered as a naturalized citizen, voted, held office and never questioned but that I was such. Investigation in Chicago shows that the clerk never even made a record of the oaths or appearances, even had they been of legal value. Hence, I must now file a petition asking for naturalization papers supported by two witnesses and the law is mandatory and requires that after this not less than ninety days after filing of the petition, during which time the Government conducts a thorough examination of the statements made by the applicant and his witnesses - comes the final hearing in court and the granting of naturalization papers.

I have been to various courts and officials and men high in the department of labor and naturalization bureaus know of no way of evading this ninety day probation though everyone has done what they could so after fifty-eight years residence in the United States and exercising in good faith my rights I find that for ninety days I am technically a citizen of George the Fifth. On former trips abroad I never used a passport and came home on an American passport issued by the Berlin Embassy. Of course it is simply folly to attempt any journey abroad without proper passport and I assume that this three months delay in securing same negates any usefulness I may possess for you in this particular case.

It was very kind of you to think of me and anything that I can now do here in New York to assist will be most cheerfully at your service. I have begun proceedings to get my papers as I now longer wish to be a man without a country.

Very respectfully yours,

Frank J. Pollay.

January 20, 1920.

25 3rd St. Wm. C. C.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Supplementary to my telegram of even date I report as follows:-- I find I cannot procure a passport without a delay of fully ninety days and hence feel it is not right for me to come to Chicago and make an expense bill that might be useless.

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It was very kind of you to think of me and anything that I can now do here in New York to assist will be most cheerfully at your service. I have begun proceedings to get my papers as I no longer wish to be a man without a country.

Very respectfully yours,
Frank S. Johnson

January 23, 1920

Dear Mr. Pollay:

Your favor of the 20th instant is received confirming your telegram. The situation is very whimsical. Of course there is no means of shortening the ninety day period. Perhaps we may leave the matter in this shape:

If we think it best to send someone else at an early date so as to secure the advantages of the present situation, we shall be free to do so. If, on the other hand, it turns out that that is not done, should you succeed in becoming an American citizen, we can then take the matter up de novo.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Frank J. Pollay,
56, East 59th St.
New York City.

HPJ:JN

January 28, 1920

Dear Mr. Polivy:

Your favor of the 20th instant is received
confirming your telegram. The situation is very
whimsical. Of course there is no means of shortening
the ninety day period. Perhaps we may leave the matter
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present situation, we shall be free to do so. If, on
the other hand, it turns out that that is not done,
should you succeed in becoming an American citizen,
we can then take the matter up de novo.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Frank J. Polivy,
56, East 93rd St.,
New York City.

HPJ:JN

delay to
me

+ 141

Atlantic City, N. J.,
October 24, 1919.

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson,
Chicago University,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

May I ask your good offices in securing me some employment either in an executive, legal, secretarial or teaching capacity in any of the organizations through which you function and have influence. I have hopes that in the organization of the new Medical Department or in some of the Rockefeller activities, you may be able to let me render some service. I think I can claim some value for my past training in law, finance and educational work, supplemented as these have been with the opportunities I had for research during many years abroad, and my knowledge of present actual economic conditions which I gained as a Government Staff speaker during the war in the Education and Information Department of the United States Bureau of Labor. I have had direct, close reactions to conditions in all parts of our country and I do hope that now I find myself in need of work, that I can be usefully placed through your kindly influence.

As my library and interests are now in New York, I much prefer to stay here if possible, though the location of my work is of less importance at present than the necessity for self-support. I am unmarried, quite unattached and am willing to follow wherever the position leads.

The war lost me all my European securities upon which I had formerly lived as a retired gentleman. My European library and the results of my work abroad was also swept away.

My present misfortune coming at this time of high rents and the cost of living adds to my immediate embarrassment. I gave my services freely to my country during the war and was content to live in a simple manner upon some banking interests that I possessed in California. These, I

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Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, Page 2.

regret to say, have now been swept away through some heavy losses due to trusted bank officials and reorganization needs following the same. The result is that I find myself today changed from a position of comparative affluence to the necessity of beginning life anew in fields not simply of my own choosing and for cultural purposes alone, but for a remuneration that will support me. My sad news is causing me to leave here where I had hoped to rest and I am returning to New York City where I earnestly ask the favor of an early reply to my hotel at 56 East 59th Street.

I have not enough left to keep me in leisure for more than a reasonable time. If you wish, I will willingly come to Chicago for a consultation if you deem it best.

I am sorry to intrude a business request upon you after so pleasant a summer spent in social intercourse, but I am far from happy in my mind and it seems best for me to face actual conditions like a man and begin again as soon as possible.

For the moment, please do not let Mrs. Donnelley or Naomi know of my reverses. My pleasures I am willing to share with my friends; my troubles are my own.

If you wish any information as to my previous work, qualifications, or equipment for any position you may find open for me, I shall most willingly try to satisfy you upon request. I feel that a life that has been spent along right lines may yet be useful in some way to your organizations.

The question of compensation or position is entirely with you. I ask only to be self-supporting in some useful occupation where I may continue to live in some way not quite inconsistent with my former life.

Will you give my compliments to Mrs. Judson and add that I am not so full of jokes today as I was in Gloucester, but that I have confidence and am sustained by the hope that through your kindly interest I may soon feel better than I do now.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank J. Pollay

56 E 59 St.
N.Y. City -

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, Page 2.

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I am sorry to intrude a business request upon you
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603 29 St
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