

COPY

New York City
February 5, 1936.

At this time when treachery, hatred and destruction are so much in evidence, I feel that it is my duty to speak my thoughts and feelings of protest. I have pledged my entire life to this work, and I certainly am not going to stand silent while it is being maliciously destroyed.

I came as a free person to this Institution. I saw great art and evidence of great knowledge. I read Professor Roerich's books. They are as spotlessly pure in humanitarianism as his paintings are perfect. I saw cultural activities of a broad scope carried out in a variety of affiliated institutions by workers who were so heartily devoted to the Founders, Prof. and Mme. Roerich, that individual personal lives were completely sacrificed to a common artistic work under their guidance.

I learned that the co-workers each had special talents and experience, and directed different phases of the work accordingly. I never asked who were stockholders, or which one was 1st Vice-President and which one merely 2nd Vice-President, - I never thought of it as a corporation at all. I knew that one member had given a majority of the money, for the building, etc., and I considered it a striking additional proof of the unique constructive value of this group, which contained not only scientists, artists, writers and teachers, but even a man with money. But I certainly thought that the most praiseworthy consideration in regard to this member was not his original gift of a sum of money previously amassed in Wall Street, but rather his continued service in the capacity of legal and financial manager. I happened to come here at a time when the difficulties of the receivership were causing great concern, and I respected this man's activity as being just as self-sacrificing as the cooperative work of the other members, who trusted him implicitly in these matters. Then, when he returned to his former Wall Street activities in the midst of his cares and duties at the Roerich Museum, I thought this was the greatest sacrifice of all, - that he was exerting every effort to aid the Institution in its difficulty. I took it for granted that he desired nothing for himself, since I had had ample opportunity to be assured of such altruism on the part of the other members.

I had already voiced a desire to join the work under Prof. and Mme Roerich and had given money in small amounts for varied purposes. Now I wished to give my entire savings to this member, Mr. Horch, without any receipt or red tape whatever, but was prevented by the member who introduced me to the work, Mrs Lichtmann, who explained that I should learn to carry the responsibility of my money and stipulate just where it should go, at first to loan a smaller amount and gradually to donate sums specifically. This I did, giving my check for \$800.- with the understanding that it was a loan to help rescue the Institution from financial distress and would be repaid monthly following consumation of reorganization. These payments then I decided would be donated consecutively to another department with which I was closely associated, namely, Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute.

This arrangement proceeded as above for two months with the exception that Mr. Horch requested that I accept \$50.- monthly, instead of \$100.- as originally agreed. Mr. Horch thanked me on two different occasions in person, but did not acknowledge the loan in any way on paper to me. After two months the payments ceased, and at about the same time I became unemployed. Nevertheless I sent the next monthly amount to Urusvati Institute out of the remainder of my savings, intending to continue my part of the plan, and never doubting that the loan was

used in good faith in the interests of Roerich Museum. However, the Urusvati Institute declined to accept further sums from me while I was unemployed. During the next several months, while I continued unsuccessfully to seek employment, I heard nothing whatever from Mr. Horch, neither written nor spoken, except that I received late in August his personal check for \$50.-, with no accompanying note or word. About a month later I wrote him a note of inquiry.

In the meantime I learned gradually about the sudden vicious attack of the three members, Mr and Mrs Horch and Miss E.J. Lichtmann, upon the founders, Prof. and Mme Roerich and the three original trustees, Mr and Mrs Lichtmann and Miss Grant. The name plate at the building entrance was changed, the lettering on the stationery was changed, the towel markings were changed. At first it was supposed to be in furtherance of the reorganization technicalities, and plans for tax exemption. But soon it became suspicious. I questioned Mrs Lichtmann and received startling explanations bit by bit, until it became apparent that it was complete treason.

I recently had made a trip west and had taken every occasion to visit friends and museums and schools and newspapers, trying to spread knowledge of the Roerich Museum and the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. I now demanded to know what was being done in furtherance of these great ideals. It is now plain that I must direct my question to Mr. Horch and his associates.

In answer to my notes regarding the loan I received curt refusals. There were insinuations which were insulting to my intelligence and independence of mind, and extraneous references, and were I not restrained by respect for the larger issue I would have sought settlement immediately. However, not wishing to complicate the work of the loyal defenders with whom I desired to cooperate, I postponed action.

This man and his two associates deliberately took money from me under false pretenses, and used it to attempt to destroy that to which I have consecrated my whole life. They have similarly taken years of self-sacrificing labor and constructive effort along many lines from their co-workers who trusted them. They are attempting to steal the fruits of the creative spirit of the Founders, - which was also made possible only by the constant guidance of the latter through these years, - and to destroy the greater part, retaining only that which is of financial benefit to them personally. If law does not permit suing for the taking of talent, time, creative genius, and labor, under false pretenses, it does permit suing for accepting money under false pretenses. Therefore I am going to sue this criminal for \$650.- and I will not accept six thousand and fifty dollars out of court, but I demand that the law reveal to the public his motives.

Why do these three people think I gave any money at all to this Institution? Did I not affirm that I wish to devote my entire life to this work? Was it because I have nothing else to do? Do I make it a habit to lightly pledge myself every so often to one movement or another? Have I not strength nor ability in the world of affairs to occupy myself seeking ordinary success?

No, but I wish to serve a great cause for the benefit of humanity, instead of myself alone.

Great men are very, very rare and when I have found one, and begun constructive work towards possibilities pointed out by him, I will not have him slandered viciously by any madman without protest.

(signed) Dudley Fosdick .