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Redcliffe, Adeladie Avenue.
New Brunswick, N. J.
October 18, 1938

The Honorable Irving Lehman
Judge of the Court of Appeals
Albany, New York

Dear Sir:

I am informed that a matter of very considerable educational and cultural importance is to be brought before your court in the near future. Specifically, I refer to the case involving the Master Institute of United Arts, Inc., of New York City.

As an educator and a disinterested friend of the former Roerich Museum, I am writing to ask the favor of an interview with you, if possible this next Friday afternoon, after three-forty-five or in the evening. I am convinced that a very great deal is at stake in the case, not only locally but nationally and internationally.

I can identify myself to you only indirectly, as a son of Henry D. Wild, professor (now emeritus) at Williams College for over forty years, and a friend of your brother, the Governor. I wish to request your kindness in using the enclosed special delivery stamp in reply.

Very truly yours,

HDW:MC
1Encl.

H. Douglas Wild

November 11, 1938

The Honorable Irving Lehman
Judge of the Court of Appeals
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of October 19th.

I have appreciated your scruples about permitting anything to prejudice the case involving the Master Institute of United Arts, of New York City. I am myself too much a lover of fair play to risk the prejudicing of any case where truth and justice are concerned. My motive, however, in asking you for an interview was not of a partisan character, although it has seemed that you so interpreted it.

The ground on which I am now writing to you is the larger issue of human values which the character and aims of Professor Nicholas Roerich necessarily bring into any case in which he is involved. I am convinced that the record of the case before you, quite apart from the specific contentions, is a travesty upon that character and those aims, for two reasons: first, a purely cultural and educational institution has been treated by the attorneys for both sides as a business corporation; secondly, the facts selected for presentation by either side are devoid of relevance to an exceedingly relevant matter: the moral elevation and dignity, as well as the international scope, of Mr. Roerich's cultural services to humanity. It is doubtful if any of the judges know that Professor Roerich is recognized in Europe, Asia and the Western Hemisphere as one of the world's major artists; that he first came to this country on the invitation of the Chicago Art Institute, and that he created the Roerich Peace Pact and Banner, ratified by the United States and by twenty-one South American Nations. The absence of these facts from the record goes far to complete the falsification of the basis on which the case has been conducted from the beginning.

This letter is prompted solely by a desire to uphold the cause of education, knowledge and culture at a time when a splendid movement on its behalf is being incalculably hindered and gravely endangered. It is my belief that a true understanding of this case and its issues, as of any case, calls for a recognition of the reality of the human

2 The Honorable Irving Lehman

November 11, 1938

spirit which is behind it. I have stated a few of my reasons for feeling that a closing of this case will leave a heavy stain upon the history of culture in America.

I hope that you may still find it possible to grant me an interview. In this case I shall be very glad to come to Albany. If not, I hope you will understand the ground on which I base this request.

Yours very truly,

H. Douglas Wild

STATE OF NEW YORK
COURT OF APPEALS

Irving Lehman, Judge

36 West 44th Street
New York City
November 14, 1938

H. Douglas Wild, Esq.,
Department of English,
Rutgers University,
New Brunswick, New Jersey

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of November eleventh. I had hoped that my previous letter would make clear to you that it is impossible for me to discuss privately a pending case or to give any effect to information conveyed in a private letter.

Yours very truly,

Irving Lehman (Signed)

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