

January 30, 1939

Dr. Horace L. Jones
Interlaken
Seneca County
New York

My dear Dr. Jones:

Chairman Eccles has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 23 together with its enclosure, each of which he has read with interest. He wishes me to express to you his appreciation for the thoughtful attention which you gave to his radio address before the National Radio Forum.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Clayton
Assistant to the Chairman

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Village of Interlaken

Seneca County, New York

Jan. 23, 1939
11 Pm.

My dear Sir:

I have just now heard your address over the radio.

As a professor in Cornell University, at Ithaca, as Mayor of this Village, and as a Republican, I wish to congratulate you upon your truly great speech. To say nothing of its terseness, style and diction, it completely dissolved all my qualms and uncertainty.

I was particularly impressed with your calm and dignity in squelching Senator Byrd. To citizens who think, his letter to you must now look like the "sophomoric effervesences" and the ad captandum stuff of a man who is vainly ambitious.

I voted for the President in 1936; and I enclose you herewith a radio speech which I gave at the request of the local Administrator at Elmira. May I call attention to the marked paragraphs on pages 3 and 4?

Another thing: I have often had the impulse to write the President about what I regard the one mistake of his career, but I did not have the nerve to do it: I mean his announced pressure upon England to open the Holy Land to more Jews. I only wish that I could tell him personally, after my sojourn in the Holy Land, of the Arab side of this question. In my opinion, Lord Balfour was the most perfidious statesman of all time - in order to save England in the great war. But I forbear to say more, at least now.

Again thanking you for your enlightening address,

I am sincerely yours,

Horace L. Jones

P.S. As you are probably annoyed by a number of "cranks", it occurs to me to refer you, for my responsibility, to "who's who in America" or to the "International who's who."

Received in
Chairman's Office
JAN 25 1933
Board of Governors
of the
Federal Reserve System

in

AN ADDRESS BY HORACE L. JONES, PROFESSOR, CORNELL UNIVERSITY AND MAYOR OF INTERLAKEN, NEW YORK, GIVEN OVER STATION WESG, ELMIRA, NEW YORK AT 6:45 P.M. APRIL 1ST, 1938.

On behalf of my fellow citizens of Interlaken, N. Y., I have welcomed the invitation to join in with the present nation-wide program, sponsored by nine national non-partisan Associations, fostered by the Works Progress Administration, and organized for the purpose of gathering unbiased information on the experience of all municipal, county and state governments with the problem of unemployment and relief, and to analyze and summarize for public use the results thus obtained.

It is obvious that such a movement should, for generations to come, ~~insure~~ ^{insure} to the benefit, not only of every community unit in the country, but also of all public agencies engaged in relief service.

But I have been requested to give at this time a frank appraisal of the successes or shortcomings, or both, of the federal relief organizations in my own Village.

To do this, a bit of history is necessary. In 1933 the Village decided to construct a water-works system. Bonds were issued for \$60,000, and certificates for \$6,000 more. Several underground springs in a valley on a high level two miles west of the Village were tapped, then conducted by gravity through nine catch basins and water mains to a 200,000 gallon reserve-tank, and then to the consumers in the Village.

Unfortunately and naturally no account was taken of what might possibly happen. In June 1935 there came two successive floods unprecedented in the memory of the oldest citizens, which inundated the springs and

catch basins, and gutted the whole valley. The result was that the water supply was subject to contamination and the village threatened with an epidemic. An emergency indeed!

And this is where the T. E. R. A. came in! Within only a few days both men and machines were rushed to the scene, and within two weeks more the whole thing was restored in such a way - including protective concrete abutments - that all fears of a similar catastrophe vanished.

This entire job was done at a cost of four or five thousand dollars and with no charge to the depleted village treasury. But another unprecedented emergency was to ensue - less urgent, but far more expensive. In June 1936 there came a terrible drouth, which largely dried up the sources of the water supply and lasted all summer. The only temporary recourse was to increase the small supply by pumping from a large local well - and, even so, the consumers had to use the utmost economy; and the lack of water in the reserve - tank created an alarming fire hazard.

The only permanent solution was first the aid of the W. P. A.; secondly, a new bond issue of \$15,000; and ^{thirdly} ~~thereby~~ the raising of the local tax rate, which was already burdensome enough.

In this way another set of springs $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles still farther west, were developed and connected with the first set, at a cost, in both labor and materials to the W. P. A. of about ~~\$15,000.~~ ^{\$16,000.}

So the Village now has a gravity water works system with ample capacity to meet all the needs of a far larger population.

The time allotted will not admit of more than a mere mention of ~~the~~ other W. P. A. projects at Interlaken; ^{namely,} ~~First,~~ the grading of the ten-acre site of the new school building and preparing it for lawns and play-grounds.

an average number of
These two W. P. A. projects provided work for ^{an} 25 of our able bodied men for about two years.

// So far, my friends, I have been talking only about the material aspect of the problem, wherein, considering the relative results obtained, the cost to the Federal government appears to be excessive. But, after all, the social and spiritual aspect transcends the material by far. I have come to realize this fact from almost daily contact with the men on the jobs.

// We are told in Holy Writ that we should give alms to the poor; but we are also told that "Man shall live by the sweat of his brow". And these injunctions apply to a man in accordance with his ability or inability to work.

// I have found that the general run of able bodied jobless citizens in Seneca County have too much self-respect to look for a dole, and that they ask no more than an opportunity to live by the sweat of their brows. It is quite ^{true} ~~fine~~ that one trenching machine can dig a ditch ^{four} ~~four~~ feet deep, two feet wide and one mile long in ten or twelve days, and at much less expense than human labor. But a machine has no soul, and cannot starve; a machine has no need for that most precious birthright of an American citizen, namely: "the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of h

// happiness, as vouchsafed to us by our forefathers
in the Preamble to the Constitution.

The truth is that the preservation of this sacred right has always
been the basic function of our government; and if any administration, ^{now or ever,}
whatever its political complexion, should ever prove unfaithful to
that trust, it would quickly forfeit the confidence of a vast majority
of the American people.

~~(Ask Beverly)~~
N. B. (Notum Bonum)
~~This - the condensation, - was an awful job.~~
~~I was limited absolutely to 5 minutes. So I~~
~~practised beforehand before my watch.~~
~~The actual performance was timed by~~
~~W.P.A. officials at 4'58".~~