

January 22, 1938.

Mr. Edward S. Witkowski, President,
Manhattan Society,
Hotel McAlpin,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Witkowski:

This is to thank you and Mr. Kropky for your letter of January 14th inviting me to attend the dinner to be held at the Biltmore Hotel on the evening of February 21st in honor of my associate, Mr. Szymczak. As I endeavored to indicate when this subject was first mentioned, I would be glad to participate in any gathering of the many friends and admirers of Mr. Szymczak to pay tribute to his public services and achievements.

It has occurred to me, however, that it might be most appropriate if the toastmaster and the principal speaker were drawn from your own society which is paying honor to Mr. Szymczak, and if those on the outside whom you may select for guest speakers were to supplement these remarks. The thought I had in mind, apart from my own limitations as a public speaker, is that Mr. Szymczak's friends and my own are aware of my close daily association with him and my admiration of his abilities and accomplishments so that whatever I would say would be much like one judge on a bench publicly praising another who sat beside him daily. In such a close relationship the tributes are naturally taken for granted and in my case would be both spontaneous and genuine. In other words, I assume that your purpose is to have your society do honor to Mr. Szymczak rather than to afford merely an occasion for his official colleagues to do so.

Accordingly, I am wondering if it would not be better were I to accept your invitation with the understanding that whatever I might be called upon to say would be a brief supplement to such preceding remarks as may be made by those who represent your society. I would appreciate it if you

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would advise me whether this would accord with your own ideas.

In the meantime, I wish to reiterate that I am grateful to you for your kind invitation, the more so because of the high esteem in which I hold Mr. Szymczak and my desire to join in any testimonial to him.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

ET:b