

8/3/40
(DATE)

RDL

PETER F. DRUCKER

92 LIBERTY STREET

NEW YORK

PHONE RECTOR 2-2296

August 1, 1940

Dear Dr. Leigh,

I write to you in order to tell you how much I enjoyed meeting you this morning. I hope I shall be allowed to continue our acquaintance - quite irrespective of the question of any future tie-up between Bennington College and myself.

I am afraid I overwhelmed you with names and recommendations of refugees and quasi-refugees this morning; I hope I have not been too much of a nuisance. But it is not often that I meet a college president and even less often that I meet one willing to do something for refugees. And for the last seven years - ever since the flood started with Hitler's coming to power - I have spent most of my spare time trying to help those who had to leave their native country like I had to do, but who did not have the undeserved good luck which I have enjoyed in such a manner as to make me feel that I ought to be grateful to Hitler for kicking me upstairs. Not being an organization I can afford to disregard religious or national boundary lines in the selection of the people whom I try to help. And since I have no money to give away and no sources of funds I have been forced to confine myself to those refugees where I feel that they are entitled to my help not on account of their need but primarily on account of their qualities and qualifications. Even with this limitation there is still a very large number left as you may have realized this morning. But at least I pride myself on my record insofar as I have never recommended or helped anyone who later on turned out a disappointment.

This as you may have realized is just the introduction to yet one more name which I should like to recommend to your kindnesses. It is not my fault that I did not mention it during our conversation; for I only heard that the people in question are available when I came home tonight. The people in question are Dr. Heinrich and Mrs. Lotte Leonard - or rather Mrs. Leonard as there is probably nothing you can do for her husband in whom you wouldn't be interested.

Mrs. Leonard is a singer and a very well-known one. She is not a young woman, having grown sons; and I imagine that her greatest period as a performing artist is over although I happen to know that she still sang with great success last winter. Anyhow ten years ago she was considered one of the outstanding European lieder-singers as attested by the fact that she was a permanent fixture at the Salzburg Festivals. But it is not as great singer that I want to introduce her but as a great teacher and a perfectly grand person.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Leonard are German and Jewish. Dr. Leonard was head of the music department of the Ullstein Publishing Company and is a recognized authority on adult musical education. Mrs. Leonard was on the teaching staff of the Berlin Academy of Music. Since Hitler's coming to power they have lived in Paris where Dr. Leonard started a successful music publishing business of his own. Mrs. Leonard who is by far theabler, more likeable and more important of the two had to start anew as she was perfectly unknown in France. She managed, however, not only to make a great name for herself in Paris as a performing artist but to obtain an appointment to the state-owned Conservatory of Music in Paris. To anyone who knew France this is recommendation enough as there has never been a foreigner - let alone a German - who could get a government appointment in French artistic life. I believe the last foreigner to be appointed to this Conservatory was Rossini.

Now both are in Toulouse and expect daily to be handed over to the German Secret Police. Their only hope is that somehow a way

PETER F. DRUCKER
92 LIBERTY STREET
NEW YORK

PHONE RECTOR 2-2296

-2-

will be found to enable at least one of them to get out of France and - with every other country being hermetically sealed - that means to come here. And the only way would be an appointment to the teaching staff of some school of music or college at least for Mrs. Leonard.

Now, I want to be absolutely frank with you. I would not have mentioned Lotte Leonard's name to you but for their desperate situation. On purely objective grounds I personally would consider Emmy Heim a much more valuable addition to your or any other college. Mrs. Leonard is probably the better known one of the two; I personally consider her an inferior singer - that is inferior to Emmy Heim though still a very good singer - who has only been gifted with a much bigger voice and with a much more businesslike brain. As teacher of professional singers Mrs. Leonard may be better and certainly has a greater reputation. But I don't know whether she has ever done any teaching of music to non-professionals or whether she even understands the problem. On the other hand there is probably no greater teacher of just this very thing, or at least I have never come across any one. And I may arrogate to myself some little authority as I barely escaped becoming a professional musician - for which I am not at all suited nor, of course, gifted enough - and have ever since been greatly interested in the teaching of music to non-professionals since the absence of such teaching was very largely responsible for the attempt of my teachers to turn me into a professional.

As far as Mrs. Leonard human qualities are concerned I can vouch for her though she is a very different type from Emmy Heim. ~~She~~ Mrs. Leonard has done a great deal for German and even more for Austrian and Czech refugees in Paris and has often shared her last Franc with them. She has helped them to money, food, visas, jobs; and I know personally many cases where she alone has helped people to keep sane or has restored their morale. Now, Mrs. Heim would never have been able to do all this. She would stay up all night with a sick child - even a complete stranger; but she wouldn't know how to get free medicine or a free nurse for the child or how to wangle a free holiday for such a child out of a recalcitrant charity organisation - all things in which Mrs. Leonard excels. In other words Emmy Heim is far more of a person and far less of a public figure. But both have their advantages.

I do not even know where Mrs. Leonard is at present. But should you be interested I could get you all particulars - together with testimonials, reviews etc. - in a couple of days. Or you might get them directly from my father: Dr. A.B. Drucker, Chapel Hill, N.C. who has known the Leonards for many years and knows all about them.

Please forgive me this new frontal attack. But to try to help people like the Leonards, the Polanyis etc. is all I can do at present. And it is little enough.

Sincerely yours



Please excuse the appearance of this letter. Since I have to move on a vacation every day, including my typewriter is already packed away; and I had to write on an old and strange machine.