Harry Pratt Judson, LL. D.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

The main portion of these files covers President Harper’s Administration and the earlier part of President Judson’s, 1906-12. This blue sheet indicates that the letter to which it is attached belongs in the period 1912-1923 of President Judson’s Administration, or in President Burton’s Administration, 1923-1925.

available.

I am, with cordial regards,

Yours faithfully,

Geo. Haven Putnam
2 West 45th St. New York,

January 14, 1919.

Harry Pratt Judson, LL. D.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Judson:—

I hope that you may find yourself interested in the Memorial, a copy of which is enclosed, and may be prepared to give to this Memorial, with your approval, the service of your all valuable name.

The group of Free Traders with whom I am working are expecting to send this Memorial, within the next few days, by cable to Secretary Lansing, in Paris.

It is planned to have the cable message carry the names of about one hundred representative citizens. We expect, later, to send by mail to Secretary Lansing, a furthur copy of the Memorial, the text of which may possibly be extended, and which will bear as many signatures as can be secured within the time available.

I am, with cordial regards,

Yours faithfully,

Geo. Haven Putnam
New York, January , 1919.

Actuated by the profound conviction that one of the most important problems to be solved by the Peace Conference will be that of economic relations between the peoples of the world, and feeling that the believers in economic freedom should have a hearing before the Congress, the undersigned group have prepared a memorial, copy of which is enclosed, to be signed by a limited number of prominent men throughout the country and transmitted to the Conference.

If you desire to join in signature, please do so and mail at once to E. J. Shriver, Reform Club, 11 S. William Street, New York City, as the time is short.

Respectfully yours,

R. R. Bowker,
Walter L. Ehrich,
A. Augustus Healy,
Chas. H. Ingersoll,
Geo. Foster Peabody,
Geo. Haven Putnam,
Edward J. Shriver,
Nelson S. Spencer.
New York, January 1950

Respectfully yours,

R. M. Howard
Alfred H. Erlich
Chairman

To:
E. J. Steiner
Returnee Club
6 Williams Street
New York City

Subject: Returnee Conference

Regarding the proposed returnee conference, I would like to confirm its schedule and purpose. The conference will be held on Saturday, January 25th, at 10:00 AM, at the Fox Theater. It is expected to last for approximately 4 hours. I hope you can attend and contribute to the discussion.

Warm regards,

[Signature]

Note: The text is a letter regarding an upcoming conference for former returnees.
CONFIDENTIAL.

To Hon. Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

The undersigned, American citizens representing varied groups of commercial, industrial and professional activities, respectfully request that the following considerations for the adoption of freedom of trade among civilized nations as a means of cementing peaceful international relations throughout the world, be submitted through the American peace delegations to the international peace conference.

Economic greed

1. Economic greed, masked under guise of national patriotism, has been the chief and most prolific source of modern wars, and the paramount if not the sole cause of the World War is proven to be an unstinted lust on the part of the leading aggressor for world-domination in trade to the disadvantage of other nations.

Economic peace involves freedom of trade

2. Economic peace is the vital atmosphere of a League of Free Nations and involves freedom of trade, in the manifest interest of all nations and the disadvantage of none. Protection for a discriminations and "most favored nation" clauses (such as France has recently abrogated) to the detriment of the less favored nations are economic barriers, contrary to the spirit of such a league and era of international concern in contrast with questions of national revenues, which are exclusively of national concern.

The relief of world needs

3. In great emergencies, from devastation by earthquake, whirlwind, flood, fire, famine or pestilence, the first thought has been to break down all barriers, tariff as well as other, that would prevent the free flow of human helpfulness. The urgent need of all Europe and much of Asia for food, and of the devastated regions for supplies of machinery and raw material for their reconstruction and rehabilitation and of manufactured goods for immediate consumption makes it an economic and national interest of all nations of Europe to sanction no policy that would have the result of obstructing trade or hindering the prompt delivery of these materials, with the necessary result of lessening the supplies so delivered; or that could make any addition whatever to the cost of productions required by the starving and the destitute. But the advantages of trade must be reciprocally beneficial and if a permanent foundation of freedom in trade as well as in political systems is not now established, the old confederations will soon arise and the peace of the world will again be threatened.

Outlet to the sea

4. A chief difficulty in treaty adjustments has hitherto been the requirement on the part of each nation for an outlet to the trade of the world. Those nations which can reach the sea only through the ports of other nations are put at disadvantage if such ports are made barriers rather than gateways. In freedom of trade is to be found the solution of this problem through free interchange of facilities to mutual advantage without interference from racial differences or political boundaries.

Freedom is not interference

5. Freedom of trade is not an interference with national independence but gives free scope for the development of the resources of each nation to its own best advantage. Every nation looking solely to its own self-interest the growth of trade which comes with freedom of interchange of exports and imports makes for social freedom, a better understanding of other peoples, general prosperity, and therefore individual prosperity. This is shown by the benefits derived from freedom of trade among the States of the United States of America, marred only by participation with other nations in the war of tariffs, and the resulting diversion of much of the wealth accumulated through its domestic free trade into the hands of a few at the expense of the many.

War obligations

6. Economic peace is vital to enable all the nations involved in the world war to pay their huge war debts and rebuild their industrial prosperity and the prosperity of the world on a sure foundation, and also to make it possible for the aggressor nations to provide for the repairation and reconstruction costs imposed upon them because of the ruthless destruction and reckless robbery by their armies and navies, and thus to meet the demands of retributive justice.

The Cause of war

7. In the settlement of wars through peace treaties, the obvious course of investigating causes of war and upon which they has never yet been tried. The scourge of war, left to run its course, has bred the germs of recurrent disease and the prophets of lasting peace have been confronted by new wars resulting from the unhealed sores of the old. The general acceptance by the nations chiefly concerned of the proposals of the President of the United States, permits us to emphasize the hope that the present peace negotiations will recognize and remedy the real causes of war and for the first time in history provide a working basis for permanent peace.

The new world order

8. The great task before the world, through the peace conference, is the healing of the nations which means the welfare of all peoples. This can only come through world freedom made possible by economic freedom which means economic peace. Now that the greatest of all wars is happily over, and the international spirit has vanquished national green for world power, there must come the great peace which will first of all remove the economic, social and political motives for future wars. If the new peace is not such a peace, the war will have been waged for naught and the sacrifices of millions of men have been in vain. For the first time in history there is an opportunity for the nations of the world to lay down the economic weapons along with their military arms and join in an actual brotherhood of humanity.

For this high purpose, we therefore pray that full and favorable consideration may be given the deliberations of the conference to the subject of economic peace as an essential factor in securing and maintaining throughout the world political peace and commercial justice.

We may ask leave in the course of the deliberations of the conference to supplement this brief memorial with a more extended memorandum as to the propositions here set forth.

Respectfully submitted,

Christmastide, 1918.
Chicago, February 8, 1919

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 14th of January I find on my return from a long absence in the east. As I am not a theoretical free trader, I can hardly concur with you in the memorial.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. George Haven Putnam
American Free Trade League
120 Boylston St., Room 529
Boston, Massachusetts
Office: Twickenham 8, 1912

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 18th of January I received in the receipt for a long absence in the East. As I am very much interested in the subject, I can hardly consent with you in the moment.

Very truly yours,

H. P. H.