

October 29, 1943

You have perhaps seen the announcement of our "Preisausschreiben" in the "Aufbau" of October 8 on the attitude of the German population to Nazi Antisemitism. Since your cooperation would facilitate considerably the success of our enterprise, I am taking the liberty of calling your attention to our research project, which is much more far-reaching in scope than the "Preisausschreiben".

This Institute is engaged in a comprehensive study of Antisemitism. We realize more and more how important it is to make an exact comparison of the American and German situations, and delimit carefully the differences and similarities. We believe that our study of this complicated and portentous problem, a study in which all the technical means of modern social, political and psychological science are being employed, will prove useful to the policy-making groups who, during the war and especially after it have to adopt some program of concrete action.

One of the things we propose to do -- and it has not been done so far -- is to collect and appraise detailed reports by German Jews of their experiences with non-Jews under the Nazi regime. Neither the refugees themselves nor the American officials and general public have a clear picture of what happened; the existing testimony is mostly incomplete and one-sided.

As a beginning we arranged the "Preisausschreiben" mentioned above (copy enclosed). I believe the text speaks for itself.

However, the "Preisausschreiben" is only a first step, and it will be necessary to supplement the depositions we expect to receive. Here you can be of great help. I know that in all probability you had unusual experiences relating to our problem. Do you think you could spare the time to write us your answer to our question as to the attitude of the German population at large (not the group of voluntary Party members) towards the antisemitic policies of the Nazis. Perhaps you could also inform us in detail about your own experiences. We do not know whether you have participated in our "Preisausschreiben" for the envelopes containing the names of the participants cannot be opened until after the judges have made their choice.

I fully realize that our "prizes" could hardly be an incentive. Is it too much to assume that you share our view of the importance of the problem and are not unwilling to cooperate with us?

Any contribution or suggestion you can give us will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,