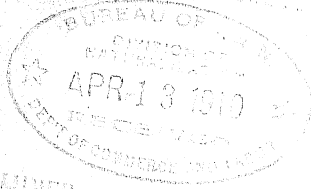


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INDEXED
November 13, 1909.

Mr. Justin S. Kirreh,
National Hotel,
Washington, D. C.



Sir:

EXAMINED

A number of communications have been received from you, all bearing upon your complaint against Mr. Richard K. Campbell, Chief of the Division of Naturalization. It is right that you should not be left under a misapprehension.

In your last communication you say that you are not interested in the question of the naturalization of Syrians. Permit me to say that I am, and that I have endeavored to arrive at a conclusion which may be fair and just to all parties concerned. There seems to be no question that the law is involved in some doubt, and perhaps the Chief of the Division of Naturalization was justified in pressing that doubt upon the attention of the authorities. However that may be, I took steps some weeks ago looking to a discontinuance of any aggressive measures on his part.

In my opinion the responsibility for the interpretation of the law rests with the courts, and the Division of Naturalization has fulfilled its duty when it apprises the court of the facts in any particular case. It is not necessary to insist upon or to advocate a more or less technical, or perhaps even forced, interpretation of the law. Plainly speaking, we are more concerned with the general

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character of the immediate applicant than we are with his nativity. However, you disavow an interest in this phase of the case, and I state it only to advise you of my position, and to assure you that every representative man who has addressed me upon this subject has been entirely satisfied with this statement of the case. In so far as your complaint of Mr. Campbell is concerned, I see no occasion for giving further attention to it.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed), CHARLES NAGEL.