

MORTIMER ADLER
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

May 16th
1940.

Colonel Solbert
70 Brunswick St M. ADLER
ack 5/21/40

Mr. F. W. Lovejoy
Eastman Kodak Company
Rochester, New York.

Dear Mr. Lovejoy:

Herewith you will find a memorandum of some of my recollections of Mr. Eastman as requested in your letter of April 18th. Although the memorandum appears to quote Mr. Eastman's words, I would not like to make an oath that I remember them exactly, but I do know that the incident recited is accurately remembered, because although it happened over twenty years ago it made a deep and lasting impression on my mind.

Of course, I had great admiration and respect for Mr. Eastman, both for his material accomplishments and his public-spirited cultural interests and all my experiences with him were of a nature to strengthen these feelings.

During the early part of the first World War, the Jewish people of the United States found it necessary to send large sums of money abroad into Eastern Europe, where the Russians and Germans had successively destroyed town after town and rendered these people homeless and resourceless. I happened to be heading up the drive in Rochester, which was, of course, organized exclusively for Jewish funds. However, it seemed to me, at the time, that this was a humanitarian matter, and I went to Mr. Eastman's office in the tower of the State

Adler, Mortimer

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Mr. F. W. Lovejoy

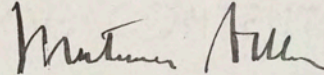
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(continuation)

Street Building to talk to him about it. He was at once vitally interested and asked me to submit him data on just what we were raising money for, and how it was to be disbursed. Promptly on receipt of that data, he mailed me a check for \$5,000, and set an example which a considerable number of Non-Jews in the Community followed, so you can see I have every reason to remember gratefully his fine sense of responsibility and his steadfast readiness to fulfill it.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



MA:PTR

MORTIMER ADLER.

ADLER

My contacts with Mr. Eastman arose from the Community Chest beginning in 1917, I think, until his retirement. During that period and particularly in the early part, as Secretary and Executive-Committee member of the Organization of which he was Active President, I met him frequently. His attitude toward matters under discussion was invariably judicial: he would listen attentively and silently to all expressions of opinion and then would add his own, which usually prevailed. It seemed to me he had an uncanny ability to sift complex and perplexing problems down to essentials without at all oversimplifying them. Decidedly he was addicted to understatement rather than overstatement, a man of brevity, clear genuineness, and unusual mental lucidity. Seemingly unsparing of himself, he demanded performance from others and had little patience with subterfuges or answers to questions that did not hit the mark.

I recall an incident in the early Chest days when Mr. Eastman asked the auditor or comptroller to report on collections. The officer replied rather proudly "We have collected 72%." "That does not interest me," drily remarked Mr. Eastman. "When I ask about collections I want to know how much isn't collected for that measures the job ahead. What is collected is water over the dam for you and for us and need not concern us further."

Matthew Adler

May 21, 1940

Mr. Mortimer Adler
Rochester, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Adler:

Many thanks for sending to Mr. Lovejoy your
remembrances of George Eastman. We are delighted to have
these and they are going into our records on this project.

Yours very truly,

ONSolbert:as