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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
620 WEST 168TH STREET, NEW YORK 32, N. Y.
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

May 7th, 1951

Editor,
Industrial and Engineering News.

Dear Sir:

In your sketch of Dr. E. Lederer in the April 23rd number of Industrial and Engineering News I find the statement that Dr. Lederer "was unable to attend" the award to him of the Fritzsche medal. I am deeply shocked and disturbed that the editors of our American Chemical Society house organ should in this way suppress an item of news of vital concern to every member of the Society and to every citizen who values the freedom we are struggling to preserve.

Actually, Dr. Lederer, a former but not present Communist, was refused a visa. By omitting to mention this you have done your bit to fasten upon us more firmly a stupid and childish practice that is inflicting great damage on the progress of science in the United States. Even before the passage by Congress of the un-American McCarran act our State Department was refusing to grant visas to scientists suspected of leftist tendencies. In this way a number of prominent European colleagues who had been invited to participate in congresses and symposia were refused visas and those at the meetings were deprived of their expert competence, technical judgment and learning.

By condoning a long-standing government policy of treating American citizens in this way as children and not adults ("Mama knows best what is good for you.") you have done a disservice to our citizenry as a whole, and, in particular, to the members of the American Chemical Society.

Indignantly yours,

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Michael Heidelberger