

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Department of Surgery

April 10th,

1940

950 E. 59th Street

Reverend Frank E. Gartland  
Notre Dame University  
South Bend, Indiana

Dear Father Gartland:

May I take this opportunity of expressing to you almost complete agreement with all of the statements which Reverend John Evans quoted from your article in the Religious Bulletin at the University of Notre Dame.

I should also, however, like to call your attention to the fact which I am afraid few people in this country realize, namely that the spokesman writing in the paper called the United Baptist represents only a very few of the Baptist people of America. This is a small and not significant paper with a very "big" name. It is published privately by the Editor and is not an official publication of the denomination.

It seemed to me, in reading the newspaper account of the article as carried in the United Baptist, that the Editor and writer of that editorial was giving expression to some of his own personal dislike for President Roosevelt, as well as adopting what might be interpreted as an un-Christian attitude toward Roman Catholics as a whole. When I read the article I was greatly chagrined because I knew that many people would be influenced one way or another by it without knowing the facts regarding the source of the sentiments expressed.

As a Director of the Chicago Baptist Association, a Trustee of the Northern Baptists Theological Seminary, and the son of a Baptist minister, I can truthfully state I have not heard sentiments such as those carried in the United Baptist expressed in any Baptist denominational meeting which I have attended since the appointment of an envoy to the Vatican. I can speak only for myself when I say that I am completely in agreement with any attempt to promote world peace and understanding and I am deeply appreciative of the tremendous power for good which is exerted by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, including the Pope himself. I believe that most of my fellow Baptists will agree.

I can see no objection to the sending of Mr. Taylor and there are many reasons which in my opinion make this a most worthwhile move upon the part of President Roosevelt. May I take this opportunity of expressing my own personal appreciation of the very charitable attitude which you show in defending the sending of an envoy to the Vatican. The fact that most Baptists have an hereditary fear of a return of a situation in which religious freedom may be interfered with does not justify any deliberate stirring up of factional strife. Surely all who claim the name of Christian, regardless of differences of denominational belief will accept without reservation the statement and join in the prayer of your closing paragraph, "May God heal the breach, may He bless us all."

Sincerely yours,

ELG:sc

(Signed) Edward L. Compere, M.D.