

13th March, 1956.

My dear Chester,

I should be very glad to support a number of South Americans, among them a plant breeder, my namesake, in Uruguay. Of the Brazilian group I think you would judge better than I. I think it is very important that these countries with no long or intimate contact with the Institute, should not think of it in these days as a conference of official statisticians, but as a world academy of experts in all branches of statistical science; among whom the official statisticians, being ^{merely} ~~in the~~ political nominees, do not cut much ice. Emmens also I should strongly support, and in general I feel that nominations should be much more active, as our list of candidates has been allowed to become greatly depleted, and should always be at least twofold or a higher multiple of the number of places to be filled.

I wrote abruptly in my last letter because I wanted you to be in no doubt as to the probable reaction of non-Americans of all countries to the proposal to increase the quota; especially as this proposal has been supported on the two grounds a) that the United States is much ahead of other countries in the

cultivation of statistics, and b) that two United States citizens have been by our present rule delayed in their election. I wanted to be clear that the first proposition is not axiomatic, and as put forward at the Quitandinha, ^{by R. L. d. d.} ~~would~~ not make a good impression; that the second shows first that a quota rule is necessary, and, secondly, that the voters, who are mostly not citizens of the United States, thought sufficiently well of these two American candidates to pay them the compliment of giving them their votes. To resent such a situation and complain of it is childish, and it should be remembered that there are large political stakes in disseminating among countries other than the United States the impression that your own great country is self-centred and overbearing.

You mention the population of the United States, which is of course large, almost as large as that of Russia, though scarcely competing with India or China; Pakistan is more on the same level, I suppose, at the present time, though Brazil may be more numerous later.

In fact, I believe the ideas of party politics, splitting the vote, etc., are quite out of place. I do not think it is an advantage to a nation necessarily to maximize its representation in the International Institute, but that it is an advantage to

the Institute to secure the participation of people interested in statistics more than in international rivalries.

Sincerely yours,