

N. Y. Times
March 30 - 1916

REPLY HOTLY TO SPRAGUE.

German Sympathizers Resent His Message to the President.

Frank J. Sprague's telegram to President Wilson, in which he urged the President to hand Ambassador Bernstorff his passports, because of the sinking of the British channel steamer *Sussex*, promptly brought a batch of protests to Mr. Sprague from German sympathizers in New York. One of the first to come in was the following letter from Frank Koester, a consulting engineer of 50 Church Street:

New York, March 29.

Frank J. Sprague:

Dear Sir.—I noticed in THE NEW YORK TIMES a copy of your telegram, with the above signature, to President Wilson. It is evident that you, like many Anglomaniacs in America, cannot stick to the truth, either deliberately or due to ignorance. The principal aim is to stir up this country to help the dying "Great" British Empire and decadent England. You know full well that the German Ambassador did not make the statement you have the effrontery to accuse him with, because the very newspapers from which you took the rest of your war knowledge, quite some time ago branded this very charge a lie.

It is audacity or downright stupidity that you and the Anglomaniacs should use the word "humanity," when American principle, due to President Wilson's onesided policies, is the direct cause for the prolongation of the war, thus causing thousands, if not millions, of additional deaths or orphans.

For this very reason Wilson is bound to lose in the next election. We German-Americans will attend to it with typical German efficiency. The Democratic Party would lose anyhow, without Wilson, because it failed to produce prosperity with the exception of the blood money earned by greedy ammunition manufacturers since the outbreak of the war.

Due to President Wilson's naïve and professorly policy, our country has at present more trouble on hand in Mexico than we are able to handle effectively. Why don't you and yours join our army in Mexico instead of endeavoring to cause other people misery?

I have not as yet seen a protest from you against the stealing of American mail and the killing of American business by perfidious Albion, who is the cause of the German submarine tactics. * * *

FRANK KOESTER.

The last paragraph of the letter gives the names of various books written by Mr. Koester, one of them being entitled "The Lies of the Allies." He asked that Mr. Sprague read these books.

Mr. Sprague, who is a member of the Naval Consulting Board, said he would not answer the letter.

"It answers itself better than I could, and besides it is really entertaining," he said.