My dear Dr. O’Hara:

A few days ago I returned from a meeting of the American Mathematical Society where as President, I was particularly well placed to appreciate the high esteem in which the Society is held. Among the chief events discussed there was the appointment of Dr. Karl Menger of Vienna to a post at Notre Dame University. In so doing, it was generally felt that Notre Dame had added to its faculty one of the truly outstanding mathematicians in the world, a man still in his prime and with an exceptional capacity to inspire young men. No better choice could have been made and I wish to extend to you my warmest congratulations for this splendid move.

By way of making a constructive suggestion, I permit myself to name for your strong consideration another absolutely first-rate man, the algebraist E. Artin, at the present time Professor at the University of Hamburg. He is an Austrian Aryan, but his wife is on half Jewish. They have a couple of small children and you know the rest. Like Menger, Artin is in the middle thirties, famous not only as a first-rate scientist but also as a teacher, and inspirer of youth, and is a most attractive personality. Although still very young he was the natural runner-up for the post of successor to Professor David Hilbert of Göttingen, himself an outstanding mathematical genius of all times. I may say that Professor Artin is coming to the United States in a few months on the way to Leland Stanford University where he shall teach next term and that an easy interview with him could no doubt be arranged.

With two such stars in your mathematical firmament you would outclass in this matter all the rest of the oldest universities. And your liberal attitude toward learning would find its just reward therein.

Sincerely yours,

S. Lefschetz,
Research Professor of Mathematics.

Susan Friedlander
Chief Editor

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