

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS

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Chapters: Boston, Chicago, Connecticut, Hollywood, New York, Northern California, Washington, D.C.

November 22, 1938

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

What do you know about anti-Semitism in this country? What would you do to stop it if you were chosen to lay down a program? The League of American Writers would hold your answers to these questions in high value.

We would like you to imagine that you had been invited to address a highly selected group of the nation's leaders in the professions and arts on this subject, and that, for ten minutes, you were to tell them what you know about anti-Semitism in your field, whether it is dangerous, whether it is growing or decreasing, and what measures should be taken against it.

If, in four to five hundred words, you make this contribution of your mind and spirit to the world's struggle against race hatred, the League of American Writers would be proud to place your thoughts in the hands of thousands of the nation's leaders.

We are publishing a book -- a convention on paper -- made up of such statements by seventy-five of the country's best authorities. Your page in the book would become part of the essential data which the nation must consider in making up its mind on this question-that-must-be-answered.

The Twentieth Century which opened with the promise of light, threatens to close in great darkness. Flames may again climb about the victims at the stake. So dreadful is the danger that we feel privileged to make this claim upon your time.

Speed is essential, for the wave of revulsion sweeping the country against the new Nazi excesses will result in the formulation of a new national policy -- and you hardly dare give up your part in the shaping of that policy. Will you tell us by an early post when we may expect your article which will be included in the section of the pamphlet devoted to history? Or, better, will you send the article itself?

Sincerely yours,

Van Wyck Brooks
Van Wyck Brooks

Thurman Arnold
Thurman Arnold

George S. Kaufman
George S. Kaufman

Henry Pratt Fairchild
Henry Pratt Fairchild

Margaret Culkin Banning
Margaret Culkin Banning

Ruth McKenney
Ruth McKenney

Langston Hughes
Langston Hughes

Donald Ogden Stewart
Donald Ogden Stewart