

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK

PRESIDENTS ROOM

November 28, 1934

The Rev. Professor Karl Barth
The University of Bonn
Bonn, Germany

My dear Professor Barth:

We were, of course, very sorry to receive your letter and we have been even more grieved by the news in the papers of yesterday and today that you have been deprived of your professorial chair. We want to express our sincere sympathy with you and our earnest prayer that you will be strengthened in this great struggle that you are waging for Christian liberty and guided with Divine Wisdom at every step.

I am wondering whether this last occurrence will in any wise change your plans. If so, we do not want to release you but we would like to accommodate our plans to suit yours. Would it be possible for you to come earlier or later, or could we arrange the matter of these lectures in some other fashion?

I do not think that you are right in saying that America is not yet ready for you. Undoubtedly you would not find everyone at once ready to agree, but you would find a very large hearing and also a large measure of agreement. The Humanistic trend in American theology has exhausted itself and there is a wistfulness for the word of God as there was not even a few years ago.

If you are led to change your mind and find that you can come to us, will you let us know at your earliest convenience? Meanwhile be sure that your brethren here are bearing you and your comrades in this great struggle constantly in our thought and prayer.

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Coffin.