

Hon. Frits Holm, - 2 -

interest should you be present in person and make the presentation, but you intimated that your engagements elsewhere would prevent your coming.

I thank you for your congratulations on my election as Corresponding Academician of the Academy of Letters and Sciences of Naples, Italy. I realize that this is a great distinction, but I feel that I do not come within the class to which such an honour should be restricted. President Wilson, Nicholas Murray Butler and the others you have mentioned, well-merit the distinction on account of the contribution they have made to the cause of Education, but I have no such qualification. The only claim that I might have to any unusual honour would be on account of my military services in the late War and they could hardly be considered as a sufficient justification for an Academy of Letters and Sciences to make me Corresponding Academician. Had the Government of Italy, on the recommendation of its Military authorities, granted me any distinction I would not have the same hesitation in accepting such honour, but such was not the case and were I to accept the distinction proffered by the Academy of Naples I would feel that I was accepting something which I did not deserve.

Will you please convey to them my sincere appreciation of what they have offered to do and my regret that I cannot accept it until my services in the cause of education prove worthy