

January 10th, 1949

Dear Friends:

You gave me a surprise party on January 8th at the occasion of my sixty-fifth birthday, and it really was a surprise. I cannot remember any day in my long life when I had so much genuine enjoyment. It made me very happy when I entered the cafeteria to see so many of you present. All of you had happy faces and were enjoying yourselves.

While I thanked most of you in person, I know some of you could not attend, and I am therefore taking advantage of the Echo to send to all of you my heartfelt thanks for arranging this wonderful celebration. I really feel more honor and attention was paid me than I deserved.

"Ecusta's Poppin" was most amusing and enjoyable, and when the show was over and you presented me with the Scott combination radio and phonograph, I just did not know what to say. Mrs. Straus and I have wished for a long time to have such a beautiful and exquisite instrument, and to become unexpectedly the owner of one pleased us more than I can tell you.

In addition you presented us with a dozen graceful goblets. We will see to it that the goblets are kept filled for many years to come, and whenever we use them we will think of all of you who made this precious gift possible.

The birthday cake naturally made the party complete. I have never seen a more beautiful or larger cake in my life, nor have I tasted one which was better.

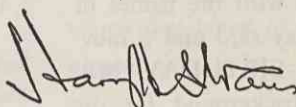
The big birthday card in its handsome frame, which bears the signature of all of you, is treasured by me very highly, and is now hanging next to the one you presented me on my sixtieth birthday. Needless to say, it will be a constant reminder of your friendship.

You all contributed greatly to making the celebration a tremendous success and a pleasure for Mrs. Straus and me, and we shall never forget it. However, while we are deeply appreciative of these lovely gifts, and for the many hours which you spent preparing for the occasion, what made that particular evening one of outstanding importance to me was the happy and loyal expression on the faces of all of you. This convinced me more than ever that I am surrounded by friends who are working with me to make Ecusta and Endless successful, and inspired me to try and do still bigger things in the future.

I hope that all of us will celebrate many birthdays together, and if it is God's will that I be here on my seventieth birthday, I promise you right now I will give you the swellest party you have ever had in your life.

Please again accept my sincere thanks on the part of Mrs. Straus and myself for everything, and with best wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I am

Cordially yours



President

Harry H. Straus
skc