

M No. 87

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.Personal.and
Jan 2-07

December 4, 1907.

My dear Mr. Wilson:-

I enclose a clipping from the Japan Herald of the 2nd instant, which pretends to give an account of a speech made by Mr. O'Brien at the Harvard Club of Japan dinner on November 30th. It is perhaps needless to tell you that Mr. O'Brien's speech was entirely different from that given in this clipping, his speech having consisted merely of platitudes. The expressions attributed to him concerning the political inadvisability of the President instituting an aggressive policy against Japan were, however, made by Professor Blakesly of Clark University, who gave us a rather striking speech.

As the dinner was quite informal, all speeches impromptu, and no reporters present, it is quite easy to understand how the accounts given to the Press by some Japanese member present got thoroughly mixed up.

The Ambassador is much annoyed about the matter, but is naturally precluded by the nature of the subject from issuing an official denial here. He, however, thinks it possible that the matter may come to the notice of the Department, and therefore, having been present at the

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dinner, I am best in a position to give you the truth of this incident.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

R.A. Lay

Hon. Huntington Wilson,
Third Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

Enclosure:

Clipping as Above.

