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**Hotels and
Restaurants-Closing Hour
Extension**

1913

New York
**HOTEL
REGISTER AND
REVIEW**
A MAGAZINE for

the Hotel fraternity and
allied industries
1269 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Private Office
CHARLES E. GEHRING



October 10, 1913

Hon. Adolph Klein,
Mayor,
New York City

My Dear Sir:-

For some months past every business interest in New York, commercial, mercantile and professional, has suffered more or less severely because of the arbitrary enforcement of the one o'clock closing order.

If I may be pardoned for the assertion, possibly no one is more thoroughly conversant with this situation from every viewpoint than the writer, for my vocations lead me into paths in a business way where I have every opportunity to gather facts and learn actual results.

New York, the greatest commercial center in the world, is essentially a busy and active and a late retiring city. This condition can not be changed by legislation nor curfew orders. It can be changed, however, by driving to other cities the vast army of buyers and business men who day after day come to this city and who in the final analysis are the influence which make this city the world's commercial giant.

It is a recognized fact that this floating transient population comes here preliminarily on business bent, but at the same time to study the city's latest innovations, its fashions, to visit its theatres and other amusements and to gather in the hotels, restaurants and cafes so as to mingle for pleasure as well as for study of customs among other visitors and among our own people.

The one o'clock closing order has very largely abolished this custom. Our own merchants and the visiting merchants are occupied through the business day. A hasty dinner and then to the theatre leaves little opportunity for recreation. After the theatre the time allotted is admittedly too short for the after theatre supper, the one function of a busy day to which our transient visitors, our guests, our business men and our own people look forward to above and beyond any other.

A canvass of the situation establishes the fact that practically every respectable hotel, restaurant or cafe would welcome a modification of the present order which would insist on admitting no one after one o'clock and extend the closing hour to two o'clock, thus giving the dining public an opportunity to order their supper, enjoy it in comfort and retire without the absurd and unquestionably illegal method of having a policeman actually escort guests to the street.

We must believe, Mr. Mayor, that you have the business interests at heart. We must believe that in your wisdom, you know how to discriminate between respectable business enterprises in this line and those which would have no regard for law and order. We must believe that through your practical knowledge you appreciate the truth and weight of the foregoing. Why not then, Your Honor, modify this order to such an extent as in your best judgment would be reasonable and at the same time conducive to the retention by New York City of its title as the greatest commercial city in the world.

If this letter is worthy of your attention, why not have the hotel men and the restaurant men both of whom have substantial local organization appear before you and exact

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from them such pledges as would satisfy you of their sincerity and then modify this order and render a service to the community which will not only be applauded on all sides but will correct an injustice so far reaching in its affect that the loss to this city during its enforcement are almost incalculable.

Yours very truly,

Chas E Gehring