



1-28-1940

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Herbert Hoover, January 28, 1940

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

A. D. Turnbull

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_secondworldwar_documents



Part of the [Diplomatic History Commons](#), [Political History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs and Turnbull, A. D., "Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Herbert Hoover, January 28, 1940" (1940). *World War II Era Documents, 1939-1945*. 5.
https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_secondworldwar_documents/5

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the World War II Era (1939-1945) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in World War II Era Documents, 1939-1945 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

(a)

Finland

Delray Beach, Florida
January 28, 1940

The Honorable
Herbert Hoover,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

In behalf of those interested here,
let me thank you for your prompt and courteous reply
to our telegram upon the question of helping Finland.

As you say, two different purposes, if
pursued by the same organization, may both suffer.
Yet, to us at least, your purpose and ours appear to
be not two but one - the saving of Finland from a fate
as unmerited as it would be dreadful.

We are struck by the prevalence of this
view, locally. This applies, I may say, not only, as
might be expected, to winter visitors from all over the
Union but also to all-year residents. For example,
there is the young telegraph operator who accepted our
original message to you. She will give all she can to
help the Finns fight for themselves and for fundamentally
American principles. Numbers of others express a great
willingness to increase their subscriptions provided part
of the amount can be made available, without restriction,
to the Finnish Government. It seems a fair inference that
similar sentiment exists throughout the country. We
wonder whether, in fact, greater sums might not be sub-
scribed for relief, provided they could be accompanied by
other sums more militant. This thought parallels our
natural deprecation of anything that would militate against
your great effort to minimize human suffering.

There are a good many Finns in this neigh-
borhood. They give generously of their earnings, partly
for relief, partly for munitions. They appear to be
practically a unit in saying that the men women and child-
ren of their country will die in their tracks rather than
submit to bolshevist tyranny. Going further, they say
that, should Finland be overwhelmed, it will be highly
doubtful whether relief funds will be permitted to reach
those who may survive to need them. From the broadcasts
of Mr. William White, from the front, we gather that this

The Honorable Herbert Hoover.....2

view is shared by Finns at home. Thus, while we fully agree that morale will be bolstered by food, clothing and bandages, we wonder whether an even greater prop cannot be built by adding the means to drive the Russians back upon their heels.

We entirely agree with you that the very great sum required, adequately to arm Finland, would normally be the function of our government. For that reason, particularly, we deplore the shabby spectacle of a Congress that apparently makes political issue of an unrestricted loan to a country, which, alone among the nations, shows itself fully conscious of its debts and fully ready to pay them. However, in the last analysis, a government loan would involve the money of the American people. If that people, placing principle above expediency, wishes to make a gift, should it not be given the opportunity to do so? If popular subscription to a munition fund reached even to a moderately considerable figure, might not that have the effect of shaming the Congress into adequate action on behalf of the nation? We think so.

We hope that one of our number may have the opportunity to take advantage of your very kind suggestion of a personal interview.

In the meantime, let me renew our thanks for your interest and for the trouble which you have already gone to in giving us your views. Should you care to suggest the name of some other national figure who might, without prejudice to your fine work, be willing to head an effort which we feel to be a complementary one, we should be doubly appreciative.

Very sincerely yours,

A.D. Turnbull