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Letter From Philander C. Knox to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, June 6, 1919

Philander C. Knox

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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON RULES.

June 6, 1919.

Mr. Huntington Wilson,
52 West 72d street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I have for the past few weeks been considering the preparation of a resolution along the lines of the draft you sent me and have about got it in shape and in its technical part will ^{now} ~~be~~ largely upon your tentative draft.

In reply to your inquiry of May 30th, have you taken into consideration the last sentence of the treaty as indicated in the semi-official summary issued under the authority of the State Department, which says "the treaty is to become effective in all respects for each power on the date of deposition of its ratification." Now if the treaty is effective in all respects as between all who ratify it and as the league of nations is the first section, and by its position is indicated to be the principal feature of the treaty, why is not a league of nations created as between the governments who deposit ratifications, when the treaty specifically provides that that act shall make it effective in all respects, and have they not in their effort to coerce the United States by

Mr. Huntington Wilson, #2.-

leaving it in a status of war, if it does not ratify,
created as among themselves ~~as~~ the very kind of league they
ought to have, leaving the United States aloof in a position
to declare her own peace terms and to assume such attitude
as she deems wise toward the league and the separate nations
forming it? I do not know whether this will work out - I
considered it so casually. I would not like the idea
exploited if it is sound, because if sound it is a big gun.

Very sincerely yours,

J. A. King

K-B

S