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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Frederick D. Field, March 25, 1931

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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March 25, 1931.

Frederick D. Field, Esq.,

129 East 52nd Street

New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Field,

My reply to your letter of March 11 has unfortunately been delayed by my absence on a trip. I now take pleasure in placing myself at your disposition to assist you in any way I can in your work as touching the first consortiums in China and their destruction.

To answer your specific inquiry, it was President Wilson who withdrew the United States from the Six Power accord in March 1913. I had explained the policy to Mr. Bryan but he had not grasped it and left Washington about a week after March 4, leaving me as Acting Secretary of State. On March 18 about seven in the evening a newspaper friend of mine dropped in and said, "See what they gave us at the White House". It proved to be a mimeographed "hand out" to the newspapers wrecking the whole Far Eastern policy without any notice to the Department or to the other powers involved.

I will ⁹⁴² send you the enclosed copy of my resignation of the following day which briefly throws considerable light on the subject, I think.

I remember distinctly my amazement when, about a year later, Lansing was writing to the same bankers in New York trying to get them back into a similar scheme. The fact, I think, is that President Wilson simply played politics with out foreign affairs. In the "hand out" referred to he even intimated that "Dollar Diplomacy" in China and elsewhere was rather wicked. Yet later he out-did the previous administration by far in such policies.

You can find all these things in newspaper files of the times. I have many speeches and other material which I have intended to file in order so that they would be easily accessible.

If I can help you upon any other points please let me know.

Remember me to Mr. Egan when you see him.

Yours faithfully

Pqd. F. L. H. W.

HW/HB