



11-15-1917

## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to George Haven Putnam, November 15, 1917

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw\\_firstworldwar\\_documents](https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_firstworldwar_documents)



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

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs, "Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to George Haven Putnam, November 15, 1917" (1917). *World War I Era Documents, 1914-1918*. 30.

[https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw\\_firstworldwar\\_documents/30](https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_firstworldwar_documents/30)

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the World War I Era (1914-1918) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in World War I Era Documents, 1914-1918 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact [aprock@ursinus.edu](mailto:aprock@ursinus.edu).

November 15th, 1917.

My dear Sir:-

It seems to me that from every point of view, and not least from that of work toward future world peace, a firm entente of the English speaking peoples is of paramount importance. I feel so strongly about this that I am venturing to enclose you an article of mine on the subject in the hope that you will read it with approval.

Because I think the subject so important, I venture to enclose articles of mine on the duty of constructive criticism of our Government and the, to my mind, vast importance of a thorough-going entente of the English speaking peoples. I trust you will agree with me that both of these subjects are lines of patriotic effort not unworthy of the attention of the League. *Committee* May I take the liberty also of asking you about a matter of which I have long been thinking? It has occurred to me that the National Security League, the National Defense Society, the American Rights Committee, and almost countless other organs of patriotic constructive work ought to be able to agree upon certain broad aims and to assimilate their propaganda in order to give it uniformity and vigorous direction to avoid duplication and to make avail for the most urgent purposes of one great network of organization instead of the somewhat patch-work results that must of necessity come from so many excellent but uncoordinated efforts. Feeling that way, I was delighted last spring to read of the creation of the Committee of Patriotic and Defense Societies. That seemed to forecast exactly what I had thought was necessary for the avoidance of the waste of energy and for the grand results to be looked for from close-necked team work. *Kent* I had supposed that the new Committee would include such men as Taft, Knox, Roosevelt, Root and others, together with yourself, and the "live-wire" workmen of each of the organizations; that it would have a small Committee to carry on its work; and that small Committee would gain approval of definite items of propaganda which could then go forth as the united voice of ten times as many citizens as can now speak through any one of the Leagues and with ten times as good channels for reaching the public throughout the country. It has been a great disappointment to me to have been unable to find any evidence that the new Committee is at all active or that any such coordination of effort has ever taken place. Is not something of the kind still possible and do you not think it would do much good?

To speak of another subject, I have the impression that the press and the public men of America are falling rather short of their duty in the matter of vigilance, constructive criticism and suggestion in relation to the country's affairs. Silence and implied approval are easy enough, but in my humble opinion the rule should rather be constructive and patriotic criticism in modo un murmuring, unquestioning support in re (i.e. in prosecuting the war to victory),- in modo including all means of arriving at efficiency and all questions of policy growing out of the war situation. Without this rule helpful suggestion is silenced, responsibility is shirked, and many national advantages may go by default. I wonder if you do not agree with me?

Yours very faithfully,

George Haven Putnam, Esq.,  
American Rights Committee,  
New York City, N.Y.