



Documents, 1919-1938

Travel, Commerce and Politics (1919-1938)

3-30-1932

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to John M. Garner, March 30, 1932

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_commerce_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, "Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to John M. Garner, March 30, 1932" (1932). *Documents, 1919-1938*. 32.

https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/fmhw_commerce_documents/32

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Travel, Commerce and Politics (1919-1938) at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Documents, 1919-1938 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

Wednesday, March 30, 1932.

The Honorable John M. Garner,

The House of Representatives, Washington.

My dear Mr. Garner,

Allow me to recall myself to you as having known you during the seven years I was in the State Department,-the last four as Undersecretary (as they now call it). Allow me also to congratulate you upon the splendid patriotic leadership since Congress met. And also allow me, if you will, a few questions and remarks, which I make as a student of economics and as an independent in politics.

Why not a duty, "for revenue only" on tea, coffee, and chocolate? When that duty was abolished (the one on coffee) a half a century or so ago, it was abolished in the name of the political cry of the "Free Breakfast Table". Naturally the sole result was that the Treasury lost the revenue and the middlemen pocketed it,--much as the Bootleggers pocket the much-needed liquor revenue.

High income tax and high estate tax are manifestly absurd without a high gift tax; just as high income tax is absurd without elimination of tax free bonds, which not only afford a convenient escape for the very rich but also put a premium upon extravagance by all governmental organs. May I ask what is being done about these t-in

questions?

On the matter of balancing the budget, it seems to me that taxation to obtain a bit of a surplus, rather than a budget so delicately balanced that little deviations in the course of business might upset it, is the safe course if you want to reestablish confidence; therefore I am so earnest about coffee, tea, and chocolate. We can easily return to buying coffee in the bulk, as formerly, instead of paying for expensive cans and advertizing as this spoiled people so lazily does now. So there need be no increase in the expense of the poor man's breakfast table!

With pleasant recollections of our old acquaintance, and with renewed congratulations and best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,