



4-19-1932

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Stanley Walker, April 19, 1932

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Recommended Citation

Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs, "Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Stanley Walker, April 19, 1932" (1932). *Documents, 1919-1938*. 33.

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April 19, 1932.

To the Editor of the Herald-Tribune
New York, N.Y.

My dear Sir,

A moderate duty on tea, coffee and chocolate would seem ideal for balancing the budget with a good margin of safety; and it should appeal to Democrats as a customs duty "for revenue only" in accord with Democratic tradition, and to Republicans as a depression-proof source of revenue. Consumers need suffer little, if at all, for they can easily return to buying in bulk, or a cheaper grade and so resist having the tax passed on to them in higher prices. It is my impression that the duty on coffee was abolished about a half century ago in the name of the political cry of "The Free Breakfast Table"; that the price failed to go down; and that the revenue was simply lost to the Treasury and added to the profit of the middleman,-- much as the sorely needed liquor revenue now goes to the bootlegger instead of the Treasury.

HW/HB