



5-2-1941

## "Government Is Sound", May 2, 1941

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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### Recommended Citation

Huntington-Wilson, Francis Mairs, "'Government Is Sound", May 2, 1941" (1941). *World War II Era Documents, 1939-1945*. 43.

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To the Editor of the N. Y. ~~Sines~~:  *Herald = Tribune*

It is clear that freedom, security, and a decent way of life for Americans will be lost,--if Britain fails; and that all the hopes of every conquered nation or victim of aggression will be blasted,--if Britain fails. For what, then, are we waiting? It is not lack of intelligence, or of patriotism, or of courage; it is lack of leadership that threatens our country with ruin. Is our Government to shillyshally about convoys, about all-out help to Britain, about strikes, even about war, if need be, until America shall have to face a hostile world alone?

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A republic is a representative democracy. President and Congress are elected and paid to think and act conscientiously in the interest of the nation. The United States is a republic, not a direct democracy, as John C Calhoun long ago pointed out, and as every statesman has realized. The great John Marshall saw it to be the bounden duty of a representative to vote on all important matters solely according to his judgment and his conscience, consulting his constituents only upon minor local matters. Mr. Willkie lately <sup>o</sup> pointed out that, in this crisis, the Government should lead, not wait for, public opinion. No important nation can successfully govern itself by direct democracy, whether through referendum or, still worse, demagogy. Only a republic can give efficiency without dictatorship. The form of our Government is sound. It is men in office who are afraid to lead as they are elected and paid to do, and who would degrade our Republic to the lowest form of direct democracy, namely demagogy, --it is these who may bring ruin to America.

F. M. Huntington-Wilson

Woodbury, Connecticut, May 2, 1941.