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"America First" vs. America, June 14, 1941

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To the Editor of the Hartford Times:

"America First" vs. America.

In your issue of the 11th instant I read the reply of Mr. Bissell, head of the Hartford Chapter of "America First," to Mr Batterson's open letter questioning the propriety of an "America First" rally in Hartford, to be addressed by Senators Wheeler and Danaher. I entirely agree with Mr Batterson that "it is inconceivable that any American would intentionally encourage disunity or give encouragement to those who are sowing the seeds of discord". We need not discuss intentions. Hell is said to be paved with good ones; and well-intended action, ignoring the lessons of history, failing to face facts, or based upon prejudice, has probably done as much harm in the world as conscious evil-doing has.

In my opinion, ^{when} since on March 11th the so-called lend-lease bill became the law of the land and the policy of the nation, the debate was closed. Also, since we were not to spend billions to arm Britain, and stand by while this armament was sent to the bottom of the sea, it followed as a matter of course that, ^{said on} as the President May 28th, the United States was not going to lose command of the seas and the United States was going to assure delivery of supplies to Britain. Now there is no way on earth in which this American policy can be carried out except by cooperation with Britain on sea and in air. The President also proclaimed a full national emergency. It is beside the ^{past} point to invoke hopes or promises to keep us out of war, when we all know ^{how} fast the fatal encirclement of America has progressed. It is in fact now or never, if we care for America's future.

Mr. Bissell and "America First" should note that we are already virtually at war. They should refrain from activities that tend to disunity and to sabotage of their country's policy; that give aid and comfort to the enemy. There is a time for free speech and there is a

time for restraint. To shout "Fire" in a crowded theatre, or to lull a man to sleep while his house is afire, are both very dangerous.

F. M. Huntington-Wilson

(Formerly of the diplomatic service and the Department of State)

Woodbury, Connecticut,

June 14, 1941.