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## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Amos R. E. Pinchot, June 16, 1941

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Woodbury, Connecticut,

Monday, June 16, 1941.

Dear Amos,

I have always been so fond of you, and have so respected and enjoyed your intelligence, that it shocks and pains me to know that even since the nation has adopted its policy, through Congress and the President, you still countenance the activities of "America First". I can explain what is to me your aberration only upon the theory that your hatred of Roosevelt has unconsciously distorted your judgment; that you are not keeping your reasoning separated from your emotions.

Certainly the harrangues of the Lindbergs, Wheelers, Nyes et al. are weak, prejudiced, and unconvincing to an impartial mind. I believe I answered them conclusively in a letter to the Times of May 11th, which you might usefully read. That I am right and you people are wrong tends strongly to be proved, I think, by a comparison of the heavy weight of informed opinion on my side, compared to the almost total absence of persons qualified to speak on foreign policy and national defense who are to be found on the side of "America First". To be an aviator, an automobile manufacturer, or a quartermaster, or even to have done good work against Court packing and reorganization, as you so brilliantly did, and as Wheeler also did, implies no necessary wisdom or knowledge in foreign policy. Danaher, who is with you in Connecticut, is the most ignorant and prejudiced man I ever knew in this field, a fact of which I have the proof.

The period for discussion ended March 11, when H. R. 1776 became the law of the land, since, implicit in that law, are the policy of getting armaments to the British and of keeping command of the seas, which the President announced May 27th, when he also proclaimed a full nation

al emergency. Since the latter date, everyone should know what America's policy is. The continuing efforts of "America First" to sabotage that policy seems now rather like a rebellion of a minority against the expressed will of the Republic than like an exercise of free speech. To my mind it is virtually a shabby form of treason. By saying things that help help Hitler in that they foster disunity, distrust and doubt in our country, "America First", I think, gives aid and comfort to our communist and pro-German enemies within, and also to the country against which we are arming.

You must realize that only through cooperation with Britain on sea and in air can America's future be safeguarded; and that, if Britain failed, we should face a hostile world alone, with the choice of abject submission or indefinite regimentation for long war. You people talk of losing democracy if we go to war now: you never explain what will happen to us if Britain goes down through our failure to act in time.

I wished to let you know exactly how I feel about all this, and to say that I think you would do yourself honor and do a patriotic service by publicly reversing the position you have so unfortunately, I think, taken.

Very sincerely,