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## Resolution Offered by F. M. Huntington-Wilson, Delegates of the Navy League, and Unanimously Adopted by the Delegates of Patriotic Societies at the Fort Ticonderoga Celebration, May 16, 1936

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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This is more than a convention of the Republican party. In this hour, which may be fateful for American life and institutions, blind, hypocritical or self-interested devotion to a party label would be treason to patriotism. It is a time for free citizens to consult only their conscience, their common sense and their patriotism. The American people, north, south, east or west, on farm, in village, in town or in city, of whatever occupation or means of livelihood, whether they have called themselves Republicans or Democrats, are faced with a most grave decision. Are they for or against the New Deal?

We recognize that changing times and conditions call for the orderly evolution of laws and policies to meet them. We have no intention to go back to those economic and social attitudes and practices which time has proved to be injurious to the nation unless reformed and controlled; but we insist that the problems of these critical times can and must be solved in orderly fashion within the framework of American institutions and without the destruction of American liberty, the corruption of the electorate, or the threat of disastrous inflation if not bankruptcy.

We support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic (these are the words of the oath of allegiance and the oath of office of Presidents and their subordinates and of members of Congress). If and when the Constitution needs amendment this should be done by the orderly process set forth therein; and the same effect should not be sought by indirection or through attack upon the Supreme Court, which, like the Constitution, is an essential bulwark of American liberty.

We believe in local self-government and States rights as also essential to a free life for free men. Through a council of state

governments and through inter-state compacts, uniform or complimentary state legislation can be obtained, in cooperation with Federal authorities, to deal with any matters that call for control or action but may not be otherwise easily amenable to the authority of a single state or of the Federal government.

Believing in the sovereignty of the States in all matters reserved to them, we do not believe that State laws designed to protect women and children from wages and hours detrimental to health are necessarily unconstitutional. The health and well-being of the nation are the supreme national interest. We believe that laws to that end can be written which will stand the test of constitutionality. The right of individual appeal to the courts as to the reasonableness of maximum hours and minimum wages locally fixed might indeed be sufficient to meet the "due process" clause.

No party or faction can claim a monopoly of benevolence. It goes without saying that no American citizen shall be allowed to suffer in this land for lack of the necessaries of life. We pledge ourselves to an adequate system of relief administered through non-partizan state and local authorities with equitable contribution from the Federal treasury where necessary. As to old age and unemployment insurance, both questions must be approached in a manner which will not diminish employment, discourage thrift, ruin the industrious taxpayer, raise the cost of living and add to the scandal of political bureaucracy.

We recognize agriculture as the most fundamental and necessary of all occupations, and the farm population as an element in the national life whose well being must be preserved at all costs. And we recognize that the fertility of the soil is the most valuable of national assets.

We propose a system of farm relief administered, with Federal aid, through existing state and local agricultural officials and experts,

free from politics, and requiring no swarm of Federal bureaucrats for its administration. We stand for abundance, not scarcity. While striving to restore lost markets, we shall encourage farmer cooperation under State auspices and guidance.

Believing in freedom and equality of opportunity and enterprise for the individual citizen; believing that individual liberty is necessary to the development of self-reliant citizens, worthy of our great heritage; knowing that times and conditions change, but that fundamental truths and human virtues and values do not change, we are opposed alike to regimentation by Government, and to regimentation by artificial private monopolies. Either of these defeats the American ideal of real individual liberty and opportunity, and free competition, restrained, where necessary, but in a manner consonant with American institutions, by State and Federal authority. We take our stand on the side of liberty and against regimentation, by whatever authority.

We favor collective bargaining, but we recognize that bargaining means voluntary action by all parties concerned; and we believe that, for the best interests of labor, as of the nation generally, the freedom of the individual and the rights of minorities must be preserved.

We condemn the effort to array class against class, as the denial of the whole American idea, which calls for cooperation, not antagonism, between different elements of the population.

The greatest service we can render labor, as well as the nation at large, will be to give this country a trustworthy government that will restore that confidence which alone can bring real recovery, rapid re-employment at good wages, and prosperity.

The value of the dollar consists primarily in what it will buy for consumers, i.e. for every citizen here in this country, and not in its price expressed in gold, silver or any other one thing. The dollar, as

a medium of exchange, should have also an international value that will facilitate the sale of American products to foreign countries; and at the same time a value adequate for American purchase of needed foreign products. The dollar, in each of these three aspects, should be sufficiently stable to make contracts for exchange of goods and services reasonably safe; and to give reasonable assurance that the value (purchasing power) of the savings of the people shall not be subject to serious alterations.

This is the true meaning of a sound currency. Economy in Government and a balanced budget are the key-stone of a sound dollar. The old automatic gold standard, with unrestricted redeemability in gold, cannot be restored here at a time when managed currency and novel trade and exchange restrictions so widely prevail in the world; and while there remains no country on the gold standard quite in the old sense.

Our task, besides economy in Government and a balanced budget, is to exert a measure of wise currency, credit, and foreign exchange control; and, at the proper time, and together with other leading nations, to return to metallic reserves and self-liquidating commercial paper as the sole backing for the issuance of paper currency and for the settlement of international balances.

Since the sound dollar must be satisfactory for export and import trade, as well as for domestic business, and since the foreign exchange value of the dollar depends upon the policies of other countries as well as our own, agreement with the other principal financial and commercial powers is highly desirable for the establishment of more satisfactory stability.

The preservation of a sound dollar, so important to every citizen, will require the efforts of the best financial ability of the country, both in and out of Government.

We reaffirm our belief in Washington and Jefferson's ideal of "peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none"; and we hope that the peace and vital interests of the United States may ever rest safe upon that foundation. American foreign policy should not be meddlesome. It should be reserved and should avoid dogmatic commitments affecting an unknown future.

Sound foreign policy, like sound monetary policy, is something which cannot be erected solely upon domestic considerations without regard to the changing policies of foreign countries. Love of peace, unfortunately, is no guarantee of peace; and modern communications have almost eliminated physical isolation. One of two nations, if bent on war, can cause war: to preserve peace, both nations must desire peace.

We advocate a strong navy and air force, an adequate merchant marine and a proper degree of military preparedness. These, with an aloof but vigilant foreign policy, will serve the safety of this country and will at the same time enhance our influence for world peace, to which we cannot be indifferent.

With militarism rampant in the world, and with popular government, to which this country is dedicated, disappearing in so many countries, the United States, while of course recognizing the complete liberty of every nation to have the form of government it prefers, cannot be an entirely indifferent spectator.

We adhere to a protective tariff in the interests of American agriculture and labor and the American standard of living. We advocate cooperation with other countries to reopen the channels of foreign trade. We approve of international tariff agreements to that end; but

we condemn a subtle lowering of our tariffs through the application of the unconditional favored nation clause to reciprocal tariff agreements, a policy which extends the same favors to countries which afford us a good market and to those which discriminate against us.

We propose to dismantle the partizan bureaucracy that is centered in Washington and swarms like locusts over the country corrupting the electorate and devouring the tax payers' money. Administrative agencies that existed before the New Deal will be made use of as far as possible, and even they can be simplified or reduced in the interests of economy and efficiency. Thereupon it will be possible to restore and improve the non-partizan civil service which the New Deal has so largely displaced with a shameless spoils system.

Upon the Republican party has fallen the solemn responsibility of acting on behalf of citizens everywhere who wish to put a stop to alien experiments, to party politics in the name of relief, to promise breaking and demagogic propoganda; who wish to reawaken the American spirit and to turn aside from economic falacies and the easy and demoralizing road to national ruin.

We believe in the main principles of the Democratic Party's platform of 1932, which coincides in essentials with the principles of the Republican party. The coming contest is not one between Democrats and Republicans. It is one between those who favor and those who oppose the New Deal, it's methods and it's grave implications for the future of America.

The Republican party invites all those opposed to the New Deal, regardless of previous party affiliation, to cooperate in restoring and carrying on a government free of those evils which we condemn.

Resolution offered by F.M. Huntington-Wilson,  
delegates of the Navy League, and unanimously adopted  
by the delegates of Patriotic Societies at the  
Fort Ticonderoga celebration, May 16, 1936.

RESOLVED THAT;

The delegates of patriotic societies assembled at Fort Ticonderoga on this soil sacred to American liberty rededicate themselves to that liberty and to our great Constitution that is its safeguard. They affirm their belief that individual liberty is necessary to the development of self-reliant citizens worthy of our heritage; that times and conditions change, but that basic truths and human virtues and values do not change. They insist that the grave problems of the day can and must be dealt with within the framework of American institutions; that individual liberty must be restrained and regulated, where necessary to the common good, but never destroyed; that equality of opportunity must be respected by government as well as by group interests. They call on their fellow citizens to join again today, as we celebrate at Ticonderoga the historic struggle for liberty, in rallying to the defence and for the perpetuation of American institutions, for their orderly development to meet new problems, and for the spirit of unselfish patriotism.