



12-31-1941

## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Clark M. Eichelberger, December 31, 1941

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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*W*  
Wednesday, December 31, 1941.

Clark M. Richelberger, Esq.,  
National Chairman, Committee to Defend America etc.,  
8 West 40th St., New York City.

Dear Mr. Richelberger,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your circular of December 16, of a copy of your telegram of December 20 to the President, and of your circular of December 22 to members of the National Committee to Defend America.

In response to your request for suggestions, I think the Committee may well be continued in existence, at least in skeleton and less expensive form, for educational propoganda and as a "pressure group" to act as occasion may require. I have favored continuance of the Connecticut Chapter in this sense.

I am unwilling to lend my name as a sponser of your "Citizens for Victory: To Win the War, to Win the Peace". I am sorry; but I think that, since all citizens worthy of the name are for victory, it is a mistake to adopt a style that labels one group as patriotic and, by implication, casts doubt on the patriotism of the generality. Moreover, the old name, "Committee to Defend America", implies victory; and it also embraces, much better, the work of dealing with enemies within our borders and with those who, without evil intention, allow ignorance or prejudice to make them obstructors of their country's true interests.

For example, now is the time, I think, to extirpate, once and for all, hatred of England; and to cause to be recognized by all the plain fact that permanent alliance of the English-Speaking peoples is the first condition of victory; and that this alliance is the indispensable keystone of any arch we may build to support the work of reconstruction and the organization of peace.

In this connection I recall to your attention the emblem with the American and British flags, a bomber and a destroyer, and the legend "Cooperation: Our Sure Defense". It was sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter and may be obtained from the Kellogg & Bulkeley Co., P. O. Box 269, Hartford, Connecticut. As a realist, I commend it to you for the visual education that is now most important.

Another reason why I must withdraw, with regret, from your national organization is one I am sure you will readily understand. Many years of experience in the diplomatic service and the Department of State, and a life-long study of American foreign policy, and of subjects related to it, may possibly give some weight to my opinions. I am therefor naturally unwilling to subscribe in advance to whatever may be the propoganda of a Committee in the making of whose policies I have not the slightest part.

With the season's greetings and kind regards, I am,  
Yours sincerely,

F. M. Huntington-Wilson.