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## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Wesley Winans Stout, October 4, 1939

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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October 4, 1939.

Wesley Winans Stout, Esq.,  
Editor of the Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Sir,

I beg leave to protest against the view point you promote among American citizens through your editorial in the issue of August 26, 1939, entitled "George Washington was Closer to Europe than we are".

The thesis of the title is, to say the least, very questionable when one considers the airplane, the speed of ships, the radio and other means of communication.

Most misleading of all, however, is, in my opinion, a sentence which occurs towards the end of the editorial, where you say, "Far less isolated than we are, Washington advised isolation." It is a popular fallacy, which mentors of the public should not encourage, that Washington dogmatically disposed of American foreign policy for all times by saying that "we must avoid entangling alliances",- something which, so far as I know, he never said. Certainly he did not say it in the Farewell Address. That address represented his mature and final judgments. Since Hamilton and Madison collaborated, it may be taken as expressing the wisest views of the times.

Recently I carefully read the Farewell Address several times. If you will do so you may be as surprised as I was to find that the isolationist dogma applied to Washington is absent from it.

In the enclosure you will find quoted Washington's most important allusions to American foreign policy. I hope you will read the whole of my argument, for I think it of the utmost importance that the American people and the Congress realize that the unneutral embargo should be repealed and that America should return to a sane policy of true neutrality.

Yours very faithfully

F.M. Huntington-Wilson

HW/HB  
Enclosure.