



1939

## Letter From the National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars, 1939

Hamilton Fish

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# KEEP AMERICA OUT OF FOREIGN WARS



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Fellow American:

The time has come for action. The proposal to scrap the arms embargo will probably come up in the House of Representatives for a final vote within the next few weeks. During the past two weeks propaganda has been pouring in to Members of the House favoring repeal, while those who have been opposing this action have relaxed somewhat in their vigilance.

The press, newspaper columnists and other disseminators of "news" at Washington have claimed that the Administration's attempts to repeal the arms embargo is an accomplished fact, and that the Congress will adopt the pending Administration bill. Such reports, far from being true, are causing friends and believers in strict neutrality to accept these assertions as fact. We are convinced that 90% of the American people are opposed to our country being involved in foreign entanglements and wars, and that the repeal of the arms embargo will be the first step towards war. No advocate of arms embargo repeal has given a single response to our repeated inquiries as to how repeal will help in keeping us out of war.

There is no answer. Repeal will not help keep us out of war, as the administration claims, but will, instead, make us unneutral and lead to war. Efforts to repeal the embargo were defeated in the House of Representatives last June, by a nonpartisan majority of 41 votes, and these patriotic Members of Congress who placed the welfare of their country beyond other considerations will stand steadfast if the people back home will let them know that they are aware that this is an issue of war or peace and will back them up in their own Districts.

The road to war is a three-way highway: (1) the sale of arms and ammunition; (2) credit and loans; and (3) American soldiers to European battlefields. This is the trilogy that will put us into war, and the proposed Senate "Title and Carry" bill takes care of the first step, the arms embargo repeal. And credit will be next. Our Committee is opposed to repeal of the arms embargo, and to the extension of credits to belligerents with which to finance another world war.

This position is in accord with the remarks of President Roosevelt when he said, at Chautauqua, New York, in 1936: "If war should break out again in another continent, let us not blink the fact that we would find in this country thousands of Americans who, seeking immediate riches—fools' gold—would attempt to break down or evade our neutrality. \* \* \* To resist the clamor of that greed, if war should come, would require the unswerving support of all Americans who love peace. \* \* \* If we face the choice of profits or peace, the Nation will answer—must answer—'We choose peace'".

The internationalists and interventionists in our midst, and the propagandists from abroad, will stop at nothing to make the American people believe that our participation in another war is inevitable, that we must sell arms, and, eventually, send our youth to foreign lands to fight over the power politics and boundary disputes of Europe, in response to another emotional appeal to "save the world for democracy."

You have it in your power to help in this fight, the most important in the history of our Nation. It far transcends party affiliations, or other considerations, and calls for the united action of our people before a fatal step is taken which will involve us in another world war with its consequences—loss of freedom and a dictatorial government in this country.

## NOTE:

Representative Hamilton Fish, Chairman of our Committee, will speak over the National Broadcasting Company's red network, on Saturday evening, October 28, at 7:00 P.M., E.S.T., from Washington.

Now is the time to ACT. Make your personal influence felt FOR PEACE. Write direct to your Congressman, and get others to write also. Give him your personal views. Your postmaster, or your local Republican or Democratic organization, can give you his name. Write him at the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. Don't fail to do your part in this crisis; act before it is too late.