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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to William Howard Taft, October 2, 1912

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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My dear Mr. President:

I feel very strongly that you have a splendid opportunity to derive great and entirely due political advantage from the work you have had done and the initiative you have taken in the matter of means of helping the American farmer (as well as the consumer and the nation at large) by pointing the practical way to give the American agriculturist the most modern and efficient means of getting money at low interest rates and upon advantageous terms for agricultural development. I do not know whether there has been brought to your attention the fact that this movement has aroused an extraordinary degree of interest throughout the United States. There has been much notice taken of the subject in the press. The Department has received a vast number of letters and requests for thousands of copies of the report of the Diplomatic Service on the way this work is done in Europe. Several hundred columns of newspaper matter have been sent to the Department voluntarily by

The President,

Beverly, Massachusetts.
by way of calling attention to the subject. The Democratic platform introduced a plank to try and take possession of this work. The Southern Commercial Congress being composed mainly of democrats has also tried to take the credit away from your administration. The American Bankers' Association is very energetic in the matter. Even the railroads are now taking it up.

Now the fact is, that your initiative has done the practical work and I think it would be a great mistake not to take legitimate means to secure for your administration the full credit and the enthusiastic response that I feel sure will await all over the country your words on the subject.

The telegram which I showed you and sent to Mr. Herrick brought excellent results and Mr. Herrick expresses himself as enthusiastically in favor of the plan therein suggested and which I am now venturing to put before you in finished form for your action.

Mr. Sevellon Brown, Chief of the Division of Information of the Department, whom I have asked to submit this letter to you can give detailed explanations and will put before you copies of the telegrams exchanged with Mr. Herrick and of Mr. Herrick's preliminary report.

Herewith I have the honor to submit a draft letter
intended to be addressed by you from Beverly on the tenth instant to every Governor of a State or Territory. If the plan meets your approval and if you would be good enough to let me know as soon as possible, then the Department would give to the press at once, — say on the fourth with a six day release — copies of your letter and of Mr. Herrick’s preliminary report. We should also have printed a few thousand copies of the letter and report and should distribute them in response to the many requests we have received. We should also perfect arrangements with the Republican National Committee to secure through them additional publicity for your letter.

Sincerely hoping that this project may commend itself to your judgment, I have the honor to be, my dear Mr. President, with great respect,

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

Enclosure as stated.