

British Loan

GS:WABE COLL

March 14, 1946

Mr. John J. Motley,  
1900 F Street, N.W.,  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Motley:

I have your letter of the 12th instant enclosing copy of resolution of American Veterans Committee favoring a loan to Great Britain, and expressing some doubt as to the accuracy of my statements in the recent remarks I had inserted in the Congressional Record on this subject.

For your information, I might say that I have received scores of letters from citizens of my District and from other sections of our country, many letters from boys in the service most of whom are still overseas, and at least ninety per cent expressed themselves as being opposed to the British loan. In fact, those favoring it are so negligible in number that I regard the disapproval almost universal.

I might say for your further information that I submitted a referendum to forty thousand people in my District regardless of political affiliation, several weeks ago, and the returns indicate them as being opposed to the British loan by more than ten to one. Since the American way is to represent the majority, and the people of my District have indicated so clearly to me their views on this issue, my duty to represent that view is very clear, it seems to me.

Thanking you for your interest, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW



1900 F. st. N.W.  
Washington 6 D.C.  
12 March 1946

Hon. George B. Schwabe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I refer to the extension of your remarks in the Congressional Record of March 11, 1946, entitled "Many Against British Loan."

It is true that many are against the British loan, and it is also true that many are for it. But whoever is against it, I do Not think that they constitute the classes of citizens you mention--the GI's, veterans and citizens generally--you say.

As a matter of fact, one leading veterans organization of this war, the American Veterans Committee, has gone on record in favor of the loan. This action was taken in support of a Washington Chapter of AVC resolution advocating the loan. AVC has 170 chapters in this country, 27 overseas, and 35,000 members nationally. The Washington Chapter, 800 members, passed the resolution with only a few dissenting votes. I enclose a copy of the resolution. I've told you what veterans favor the loan. Where are the veterans who are against it ?

As for the men now in service, it is my experience that many of them are for some kind of a loan to Britain. I am still in service, and I have been at four duty stations since the loan was proposed. I have heard very little opposition to the British loan.

I cannot speak for "citizens generally" as you did, but it is my impression that "the opposition is almost universal" is nowhere borne out. Certainly the press is divided, the foreign trade bodies are for it, the NAM and Chambers of Commerce are for it, as are most of our leading economists. A host of your own colleagues are for it. If I were in Congress I would vote for it.

The British loan will help business in this country and promote world trade. It will help world peace. As a veteran, that is what I want.

Sincerely

*John J. Motley*  
John J. Motley



Washington Chapter  
AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE  
808 17th St., NW  
National 8443

The Washington Chapter of the American Veterans Committee favors a United States loan to Great Britain under the plan as presented to the Congress in S. J. Res. 138 and H. J. Res. 311. The Chapter urges the National Planning Committee of AVC to support the loan in testimony before the appropriate Congressional committees, for the following reasons:

1. It is the most practical solution for the British debt situation.
2. It is the first step in world economic reconstruction. Britain is our largest customer.
3. It will promote a balanced growth of international trade.
4. It should aid in stabilizing employment in the reconversion period.