

SCHWABE COLL

April 9, 1946

Mr. Sam F. Wilkinson
Nowata, Oklahoma

Dear Sam:

I have just had occasion to read the Nowata Daily Star of April 6, 1946, and have noted with unusual interest the third page, an entire page contributed by you "to the cause of good government."

In the first place, I want to congratulate you, and any and all other citizens who may do likewise, for taking such a forthright stand in the cause of good government and for the people of the United States.

You have quoted from many of our officials in Washington, including a number of United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. It is a wholesome omen that the people are becoming so alert and aroused that they are asserting their views on controversial issues which affect so vitally the interests of our country, and civilization as a whole.

The New Deal Administration at Washington, in the consideration of this and many other national and international questions, seems to give priority and preference to the wishes and the demands of foreign diplomats and other representatives of foreign governments, rather than to regard as of primary importance the interests of our own people.

I think we all will have to admit that it would be ideal for the peoples of all countries to be raised to the highest standards thus far attained by the citizens of the most highly developed nations of the world. It is a noble aspiration and a pious declaration to say that we want to raise the standards of other peoples to our own level. But many of us are not willing to effect this leveling process by lowering our own standards in order that others may be on a level with us. Many of us do not think we are called upon to deprive ourselves of the gains thus far made in this country, in order that others may be upon our level. Rather, we should endeavor

to help others to find their way toward our higher standard of living. No civilization has ever succeeded in lowering its own standards to those of its neighbors in order for all to be on an equality. We must ever strive to elevate ourselves and raise our standards of living, and strengthen our functions of government, in order that others may be inspired to follow our example. Otherwise, the time will surely come that we will lose, not only our ability to afford financial, economic, and spiritual help to others, but we will lose our own strength and the perpetuity of our institutions, with the result that we would neither be able to help others nor sustain ourselves.

I am happy to note that you stated that I am on record as opposed to the British loan. I am delighted that I am in such good company as that of our two United States Senators on this subject, whose knowledge and experiences should be more profound on this subject than mine, for the Senate deals more directly with foreign affairs and foreign policies.

As a matter of fact, our Administration seems to have been rather weak and vacillating, and many have criticized it as not having any foreign policy at all. If it had, other than that of giving and lending (which is worse) to foreign countries, money that we have to borrow from our own citizens, to buy the good will of the foreign countries, have been unable to ascertain what it is. I would much rather give to England, to Russia, to Italy, to France, to Germany, to Japan or any other country, than to lend to them when I knew in all reason that the loan would never be repaid. Judging the future by the past, we cannot expect repayment. The experience of men in private affairs has been that loans under somewhat similar circumstances by one friend to another nearly always cause a disruption of friendship, breed antagonism, and in many instances ermitity to the point of violence. The same analogy can be applied to nations and governments. We cannot safely lend to Great Britain with the idea that we are thus purchasing her good will, or certain concessions in world trade, and expect the relationship to continue pleasant and workable. Dire consequences will almost surely result.

It might be of interest to you to know that some three months ago, I sent a list of questions, indiscriminately, to forty thousand voters in the ten counties of my District in Northeastern Oklahoma, which, of course, includes Nowata County. One question which I asked, (and this was before the proposed British loan had assumed definite form) was, "Should our government continue to borrow money from its citizens to lend and give to foreign countries before paying its debts to homefolks?"

Now the fact is that our government cannot borrow money from any source whatever except from its own citizens. You may say that it borrows from our banks, our life insurance companies, our building and loan associations and from institutions and groups. That is true. But whose money is it borrowing from the banks, the life insurance companies, building and loan associations, school, city, county and state sinking funds? Whose money is it that Uncle Sam gets in exchange for his I.O.U.'S when he deals with the Social Security Board? The money in the banks belongs to the depositors and not to the banks. The money the life insurance companies invest in government bonds belongs to the policy holders or beneficiaries. The same is true with respect to the building and loan associations. Likewise, the taxpayers' money accumulated to discharge bonded obligations and held in sinking funds in municipal treasuries belongs to the people. The Social Security funds belong to those who later will be qualified to participate in their distribution, and the money has been taken out of their salaries. There is no chance for Uncle Sam to borrow any money except from our own citizens. Uncle Sam does not owe anybody except our own citizens. We don't owe any foreign countries or governments. We are operating our federal government at a loss today. We have no money on hand in the federal treasury to lend to any foreign country. In fact, we are operating on a deficit spending basis. The budget has not been balanced, for the reason that we are in the red; and we will continue to be as long as New Dealirium has its way. Therefore, my question is eminently fair, and was approved by many of the best thinkers here before I submitted it to approximately one out of every four voters in the First Congressional District of Oklahoma.

You might be interested in knowing how the people of Nowata County responded. Every one paid postage on his answer back to me on this question, which indicated the interest of the citizens of Nowata County. I am happy to inform you that only 3.9% of the citizens of Nowata County who sent their answers in to me on this question answered in the affirmative. 96.1 % of them said, "No".

Therefore, your position on this question has been overwhelmingly approved and vindicated by your neighbors and fellow citizens.

Again with appreciation of your courageous and public spirited act in contributing this page for the edification and enlightenment of the readers of the Nowata Daily Star, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

April 9, 1946

Mr. Sam F. Wilkinson
Nowata, Oklahoma

Dear Sam:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 6th instant together with the copies of the Nowata Daily Star of April 6th containing your full page against the British loan.

I have no objection to your showing this letter to anyone you want to; however, I am enclosing another which I think perhaps you would prefer to show, and so far as I am concerned, you may have it published at any time you want to, in the Nowata Star.

You quoted my sentiments exactly and correctly in the newspaper, and so far as I am concerned, I am on record, and have made speeches and insertions in the Congressional Record, showing my attitude on this proposition. I did not just begin to get the American spirit, and I have not followed anybody else's nose on this subject. The whole thing is the bunk.

I am sending the copies of these papers to the other Members of our Oklahoma Delegation, and giving a copy to my brother. I might say for him that I am sure you can class him as unequivocally opposed to the British loan. From what Ross Rizley has told me, he is in the same class, but I cannot answer for the other members of our delegation.

I shall endeavor to obtain for you the information you asked with reference to the expenses of the delegates at the recent meeting in Savannah, Georgia, and if I am able to obtain this information I shall be happy to relay the same as soon as possible.

I think your attitude should inspire other public spirited citizens to do as you have done in their local newspapers. It certainly is a step in the right direction.

With kindest personal regards to Mrs. Wilkinson and all our many mutual friends, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

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SAM F. WILKINSON
OFFICE AND BUSINESS ADDRESS
NOWATA, OKLAHOMA

April 6th-1946.

Hon. George B. Schwabe,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear George,

I am herewith handing you to day's issue of Nowata Daily Star 12 in all, would be pleased to have you read the full page I have in same on financial affairs of our Government, and stating why our Government should re-jeck the Brittish pro-posed loan of \$3.750.000.000 that they are asking for, I have taken the liberty to quote you as one of our Congressman that is opposed to the loan along with Senator Ed.H. Moore, and have re-produced a letter from Senator Elmer Thomas stating he is opposed to the loan to England.

I wish you would please mail a copy of the paper to each of the other members of the house of represenatives of Oklahoma and call their attention to the page article, some of them may read it over and some of them may throw same in waste basket, but the ones that will take time to read same over and consider same might help to encourage them to vote against the bill when it comes up in the House, If it might not be improper for you to address a letter to Secretary Vinson to ascertain whether or not the U.S. Government paid for and defrayed all expenses of all of the various Countries Delegates at the recent meeting at The Swank Hotel at Savanah, Georgia, I would like to ascertain this information, as it has been rumored that our Treasury Department spent upward of \$200.000 paying expenses all delegates and their Secretaries and their wives at this meeting, Give your brother Max one of these papers, I am with kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

5/16/46