

British Loan

CITIZEN COLL

July 10, 1946

Mr. John Rogers, Attorney  
Drew Building  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear John:

I have your telegram of yesterday requesting me to support the British Loan. I have given this subject a great deal of consideration and serious study. I think I am familiar with what is going on here. I have been listening to the debates, pro and con, on this subject, and it seems that practically all of the Middle-western Congressmen, Senators and Representatives, Republicans and Democrats, except those under the lash of the New Deal Administration, are opposed to the British Loan.

I took a poll of my constituents on this subject a few months ago. I sent a referendum to forty thousand of my constituents. I sent one to every rural and star route boxholder, all boxholders in small towns having no free delivery of mail, and to a miscellaneous list taken at random from the telephone directories of the cities and towns of our District where they have free city delivery of mail. The results of this referendum show that, of all who answered, 5.56% favor a policy of making further loans and gifts to foreign countries and 94.44% were opposed.

The farmers voted 3.35% favorable and 96.65% against. World War I veterans voted 8.52% for, and 91.48% against. Parents of boys and girls in the service were 5.38% for and 94.62% against. Defense workers voted 4.65% favorable and 95.35% unfavorable.

In the first breakdown, I took the farmers as a class unto themselves, and grouped all others; and all others expressed themselves as 7.29% for and 92.71% against.

I have received literally thousands of expressions of opinion from my constituents on this subject. Those who have expressed themselves favorably, are almost a negligible number. On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of those who opposed it, expressed themselves vehemently in opposition.



Several organizations have conducted polls through the newspapers in my District, and their results have been about the same as my referendum shows. Whole pages of expressions of opinions have been published in some of the local county newspapers, showing almost unanimous disapproval.

I have talked to many of our leading businessmen and bankers in Tulsa, and the results of these personal interviews, has resulted in their advising me confidentially in most instances, to vote against the authorization of the British Loan. I am telling you these things more or less confidentially, in order to let you know that I have given this subject the most serious consideration.

Now, John, you know that I would rather agree with you than with almost anyone else; but I do not believe that I can conscientiously vote for this loan. I cannot conceive that it is for the best interests of our country. Every World War II veteran with whom I have discussed the matter, is bitterly opposed to it. The New Deal Administration, which has gone on record as a spendthrift, extravagant and give-away administration, is bring every possible pressure to bear to get Congress to authorize the loan, and I believe it will do so. Nevertheless, I think it my duty to vote against the resolution.

I know that you know me well enough and have sufficient confidence in me to believe that I will do what I think is my duty; and it is my present sincere belief that I should vote against this loan, and you will likely see the account in the papers after we shall have voted, that your friend and Representative has voted contrary to your wishes. However, I know this will not mar our friendship and that we will recognize the fact that this is still America, where friends can differ righteously and conscientiously, without their becoming enemies, and still remain steadfast friends.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GS:LW



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CONGRSMAN GEORGE B SCHWABE=

=HOUSE OFFICE BLDG WASHDC=

I AM BECOMING SOMEWHAT ALARMED AT THE APPARENT RISE OF ISOLATIONIST PHILOSOPHY IN THIS COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. IF WE ARENT CAREFUL WILL COMMIT THE SAME FOLLY WE COMMITTED IN THE TWENTIES AFTER WORLD WAR 1. SENATOR SHIPSTEAD'S APPARENT DEFEAT IN MINNESOTA IS A HOPEFUL SIGN. BELIEVING AS I DO THAT THE PROPOSED BRITISH LOAN IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF AMERICA AND A NECESSARY COOPERATIVE ACT ON OUR PART TO A UNITED APPROACH IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD LOOKING TOWARD THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE WORLD I URGE THAT YOU GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT.  
=JOHN ROGERS.(