

The Freeman, June, 1941

*Letters to
The Editor*

Here is the text of a cablegram which I sent to Winston Churchill on April 30. — Louis Wallis.

Hon. Winston Churchill
10 Downing Street
London, England

You recall that Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation as a war measure in the very midst of the American civil struggle. Would it not be advisable for you to make an explicit statement about the following situation: war effort in Britain and defense effort in America impeded by two conditions: high cost of land for army camps, air bases, bomb shelters, etc., and also enormous and mounting taxes on productive capital and merchandise. World wide attention would be secured and favorable public response would follow if you declare that these conditions could be advantageously modified by partial transfer of taxes from industry to ground rents of leased land as well as to value of unused areas held on speculation. This is a problem of relieving pressure on industry and augmenting production of goods and getting a larger volume of taxes. It is not a matter of single taxation. Having made several Rotary Club speaking tours on the subject in Britain, I am sure overwhelming majority of British people will rally to your declaration which can then presently be used for legislative effect. Such a declaration would, of course, be in line with your previous public activity in promoting fiscal reform and ending veto power of lords. Yours for better understanding between Britain and States, and in hope of speeding up backward public opinion in America.

Louis Wallis
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