

that a single one of them has changed their views. It looks as if the interventionist tail wants to wag the political dog. I have no quarrel with any interventionist—they have a right to their views. It is only a small number of politically minded interventionists, like Assemblyman Fite and Miss Springarn in Dutchess and John O. Stratton in Orange, who are trying to reopen that issue.

The American people are united in winning the war through all-out efforts, service, and sacrifice, and that has also been my position since December 7. I have exerted my influence and vote in every way in Congress to expedite the war program and to stop all useless and wasteful nondefense and boondoggling projects, and have refrained from criticisms which might disrupt national unity. There is only one supreme issue—winning the war at the earliest possible moment, cost what it may in blood, tears, and money.

In the last election I made a mistake by not campaigning for myself, and as a result had my majority reduced to 9,000, due partially to last-minute, unfounded "smear" attacks made on me which I had no opportunity to answer. If I am a candidate for reelection that will not happen again. I am not afraid of any political fight, provided there is an opportunity to give the facts to the people in the American way.

My plans are just as they have been—to enter the United States Army in June or by the first of July as a colonel of a combat regiment, but if I do not qualify physically or for any other reason I shall be a candidate for reelection in either the old district or in some part of the new congressional district, and will make a definite announcement by May 1.

I plan to speak over the radio in the district within the next month on the so-called Hill case, in which Mr. Hill, a former clerk in my office, was found guilty on two charges of perjury neither of which, if he had admitted, would have been a violation of any law of God or man. Of the 22 speeches he sent out for Members of Congress—all of which were anti-war speeches and not Nazi propaganda—I knew of only one and that was 2 years ago. The speeches were not sent out from my office, my frank was not used in a single case, and I knew nothing about any of the 21 non-interventionist speeches that were sent out in the summer of 1941 by Mr. Hill. This was all done on his own responsibility and for his own profit. He hired women outside of my office to address these speeches without my knowledge and without my consent. I knew nothing of his connections with Mr. Dennett or the mailing out of these speeches until after Mr. Hill had been indicted, nor did I know anything about the delivery of some mail bags to him with which I had no connection whatever, as I was in St. Louis at the time.

If the New Deal smear propagandists had anything on me, directly or indirectly, they would not have hesitated to bring charges, but instead a radical newspaper, PM of New York, Walter Winchell, and the New York and Washington Post conducted a "smear" campaign based on fictitious charges for political purposes.

Whether I am a candidate for renomination or go into the Army, I owe it to the people of the district and to myself to answer these malicious attacks on my patriotism and on my record in Congress. I shall reply to these attacks on me in detail over the radio in Orange and Dutchess Counties sometime in the near future, and on the floor of the House of Representatives. I am making this preliminary statement now so that the people of the district may know the facts. The American people are fair; tell them the truth and they will act accordingly.

I have never been actuated in heart or mind by any other motives except what was

best for America and the American people in the many years that I have been in Congress. It is unfortunate that some Republicans fall into the New Deal trap of divide and conquer and join with President Roosevelt in his constant efforts to unseat or purge me. It is hard enough fighting the New Deal collectivism, waste, incompetency, and trend toward dictatorship and communism, let alone members of one's own party.

Some politically inspired interventionist newspapers, columnists, and radio commentators have tried to "smear" me and impugn my patriotism and Americanism in order to punish or purge me for trying to keep America out of war unless attacked, which was likewise the conviction of Joseph W. Maerns, Jr., the chairman of the Republican National Committee, and of 90 percent of the Republican Members of the House and Senate. I see no reason to apologize for trying to save America from involvement in foreign wars along with 80 percent of the people of my district who would have to do the sacrificing, paying, fighting, and dying. My conscience is clear. I am no rubber-stamp Member of Congress. I have always voted my convictions and tried to represent the will of the people and to serve them honestly, faithfully, and loyally, and I shall continue to do so as long as I am in the House of Representatives and the ranking Republican member of the all-powerful Committee on Rules.

The truth is mighty and will prevail.

Sincerely yours,

HAMILTON FISH.

Letter From Hon. Hamilton Fish, of New York, to the Editors and People of His District

— A1470
EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF
HON. HAMILTON FISH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 6, 1942

Mr. FISH. Mr. Speaker, under leave granted me to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following letter by myself, addressed to the editors of the local newspapers and the people of my district:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., March 31, 1942.

To THE EDITOR: My good friend Frederic Bontecou has upon two occasions released statements to the effect that I could not be reelected to Congress if I became a candidate this fall. That is the surest method to have me become a candidate in the Republican primaries, as I am convinced that I can win if I make a real campaign. I am willing to let the enrolled voters make the decision on my record of 22 years' service in the Congress. Of course, Mr. Bontecou is entitled to his own views, but it might be well to find out whether he has any ulterior motive, whether he is interested in getting back into the State senate in the place of Senator Ryan and then have Mr. Ryan run for Congress. It looks as if that is the case. Certainly, no rich man's son in his 30's who ought to be in our armed forces can be elected to Congress from our district in the midst of the greatest war in our history.

I believe that 80 percent of the people in our congressional district were opposed to our being involved in wars in Europe, Asia, and Africa without their consent as provided by the Constitution, and until we were adequately prepared, unless we were attacked—and that was my position. I do not believe