

Whereas the prospect of an alliance for mutual benefit between Britain, France, Germany, and the United States would suggest to the belligerents a possibility of withdrawing from the conflict with mutual advantage, and would thus constitute the best preparation for early and effective mediation; and

Whereas the leadership toward perpetual peace would secure to the United States the place of honor among the nations for all time to come; and

Whereas the government cannot easily take steps in the matter until it knows whether the people are willing to abandon the tradition of "no alliances"; and

Whereas it would be unjust, unpatriotic, and undemocratic to deny to our citizens the right to express their wishes on a question of such supreme importance to them: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is desirable to have a popular vote on the following question:

Shall the United States, after the European war, offer to conclude a defensive alliance with Britain France, and Germany?

Désireux de se renseigner, l'hon. M. Howard a adressé aux membres de l' "American Economic Association", une circulaire accompagnée des textes de la pétition, de la proposition ainsi que d'un exemplaire de la brochure de M. Stein. M. Howard a eu le soin d'écrire: **For the views expressed in the pamphlet its author is, of course, alone responsible**, demeurant ainsi prudemment sur la réserve, dégageant sa responsabilité, ne voulant pas donner une approbation, même tacite, aux élucubrations contenues dans cet écrit. On le comprendra quand on en connaîtra la teneur.

Le tout était accompagné du questionnaire ci-après auquel nous n'avons pu répondre, la question de principe étant peu pertinente et que nous avons retourné avec une note explicative.

1. Would a league of the four great democracies of Britain, France, Germany, and the United States be strong enough to enforce permanent universal peace?

2. Is it expected that such an alliance would prove efficient, unless it were primarily designed to promote the self-interests of the contracting parties?

3. If the four great creditor nations, having investments all over the globe, were combined into an irresistible power, able to enforce peace, would they not be compelled by self-interest to forbid war?

4. Would the German-Americans consent to an alliance between Britain and the United States unless Germany were included?

5. Would the Irish-Americans consent to an alliance between Britain and the United States unless Ireland were allowed to join it on terms of equality and not as a mere appendage of Britain; in other words, unless Ireland had complete home rule?