

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

Bm

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

235 Mather Memorial Hall.

March 13, 1957.

Mr. Henry Hazlitt,
Newsweek.

Dear Mr. Hazlitt,

Freda Utley's rejoinder in yesterday's N.Y. Times to your prior communication has annoyed me, and I am expressing ^{the hope} that you will reply defending your most commendable position. Of course you are right. The Suez affair was anti-Capitalism, the unprovoked confiscation of property for the announced purpose of getting the revenues from tolls to build the high dam.

The Utley accusation that the British closed the canal in both world wars is without foundation. The Allied navies ruled the oceans and sank or stopped the German ships before they could get to Suez or Suez. During Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia the British were censured for not closing the Canal, if I recall correctly, but the treaty was respected. You are the only eminent writer known to me

as a casual reader on these matters, who has
had the courage to face out the issue of
confiscation, I hope you will continue the
controversy. It seems to me that Dulles was
wrong right from the July 26th beginning
of it, and therefore has gotten mixed in
deeper and ever deeper in all the vicious
entanglements which have followed.

I am sorry that I did not preserve your
Newsweek column which, as I recalled it, cited
prior examples of serious cases of confiscation,
including the oil wells in Mexico. If Saudi
Arabia "nationalizes" the oil wells, where have
we a leg to stand on after Dulles and
Suez, I should like to know! This sort of
thing continued unchecked means the end of
progress as we have understood it - the
development of natural resources by the
investment of capital.

Yours very sincerely,
W^m E. Lawrence.

(Associate Professor
of Sociology).