

1 Feb 1943
I hope you will agree with
the substance of this

1st February, 1943

Dear Lord Keynes,

I have not yet seen the proof mentioned in your letter of January 27th, but am very much obliged to you for sending me the correspondence between yourself and Harrod, which is returned herewith.

...

After very careful consideration we cannot avoid the conclusion that the proposed insertion fails to meet the danger we have in mind, and we feel there is great force in Harrod's objection to it. We would, therefore, be most grateful if you would consider the possibility of adopting one of the following alternatives -

(a) the substitution of Harrod's formula, more or less as it stands, which does not appear to us to be disproportionate to the public importance of the matter;

(b) the abandonment of any such clause among the details of the quota regulation proposals and the insertion in paragraph 10 of a statement, by way of general principle, on these lines - "Quota controls would definitely set their faces against any deliberate destruction of food which otherwise might take place locally, whether or not incidentally to measures of regulation described below; wherever appropriate, they would make arrangements for unavoidable surpluses to be distributed for consumption in necessitous areas."

/s

The Lord Keynes,
The Treasury,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

We hope very much that you will see your way to accepting one or other of these suggestions, since we feel that a categorical outlawing of destruction in this way would make a strong appeal to the Americans and would, moreover, at a later stage go a long way to commend the plan to a public which might otherwise be led sadly astray in its inferences concerning the purposes and operation of the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

H.F. Brown.