

*San Francisco Examiner*  
February 3, 1896

***Huntington's Methods Almost Beyond Belief***

***His Bureau of Publicity and Promotion, the "Washington Post," Printing False Statements and Bogus Interviews With Well-Known Californians. Yesterday's "Black List" Brings to Light Two Barefaced Lies—A. P. Williams and James Moffitt Were Claimed as Promoters of the Funding Bill, When They Both Are and Always Have Been Opposed to It.***

WASHINGTON, February 2—The following telegram from San Francisco has been received here:

"Ex-Senator A.P. Williams says that if his name has been used by Huntington in support of the funding bill it is a case of forgery."

The name of the Senator, A. P., Williams has been used in this city in support of the Funding bill. Whether it was so used by Mr. Huntington or not, nobody who has failed to secure the honor and distinction of Mr. Huntington's confidence is able to say. But it was at least so used in his interest and with his knowledge, for he has within a few days discussed the articles in which Mr. Williams' alleged views appeared. On Monday of last week, as for two days before, and for four days afterward, the "Post" of this city contained what purported to be a telegram from San Francisco, giving the opinions of well-known Californians in support of the Funding bill, as "The Examiner"'s readers have already been informed. In the so-called telegram printed on Monday and dated the day before appeared the passage following:

"Mr. A. P. Williams, ex-United States Senator and merchant, said: 'I am opposed to the Government taking possession of the Pacific roads and operating them. It could not operate them as economically as a company or as an individual. When it is said that the Government carries the mail and renders satisfactory service it is not mean that the Government actually carries the mail, but that it employs others to carry it. The mails are carried by companies or private individuals, and at a cost very much less than the Government could carry them for.

"For instance, I know of a man who carries the mail daily a distance of thirty miles for \$430 a year. By securing this contract he gets other business and makes a profit on it, but if the Government attempted to purchase an outfit and to pay wages to perform that service, instead of costing \$430, it would cost more than \$4,000. It costs the Government more to do everything which it does than a private individual or a corporation.

"There are two views of this question. One is the view held by most intelligent and honest people in the East, that it is the duty of the Government to get the most out of these roads that it can. This can only be done by extending the time of payment at a fair rate of interest. The other view is held by some of the people here who hope to see the Government foreclose the road and operate it at a loss, or else to sell to some other road at very much less than its value, so that freight rates would be much reduced. Whether they are correct in their conclusion that freight rates would be reduced is very doubtful."

Mr. Williams can now plead with a full understanding of what he is charged with. If he is not guilty, his innocence will be strong presumptive evidence that the names of some of the others who have been so liberally quoted in support of the Funding bill have been used with a similar freedom by the good old man of the Iata Contract and Finance Company or in his interest.

If it should appear from their united protestations that he has been lying about them, all the revelation, it is feared, would turn his heart from them in anger.