

A meeting of the executive committee of the Federal Open Market Committee was held in the offices of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington on Tuesday, March 1, 1949, at 12:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. McCabe, Chairman
Mr. Sproul, Vice Chairman
Mr. Eccles
Mr. Leach
Mr. Vardaman

Mr. Morrill, Secretary
Mr. Carpenter, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Vest, General Counsel
Mr. Thomas, Economist
Mr. Rouse, Manager of the System Open Market Account
Mr. Thurston, Assistant to the Board of Governors
Mr. Riefler, Assistant to the Chairman, Board of Governors
Mr. Sherman, Assistant Secretary, Board of Governors
Mr. T. L. Smith, Economist, Government Finance Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors
Mr. Arthur Willis, Special Assistant, Securities Department, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and by unanimous vote, Mr. Sproul was reelected Vice Chairman of the executive committee to serve until the election of his successor at the first meeting of the executive committee after February 28, 1950.

In connection with a discussion of the instructions to be issued to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to effect transactions in the System open market account, it was agreed that the existing direction should be amended to conform to the direction issued by the Federal Open Market Committee to the executive committee at the

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meeting this morning and to fix at \$1 billion the limitation contained in paragraph (1) of the direction to the New York Bank.

Thereupon, upon motion duly made and seconded, the executive committee voted unanimously to direct the Federal Reserve Bank of New York until otherwise directed by the executive committee:

(1) To make such purchases, sales, or exchanges (including replacement of maturing securities and allowing maturities to run off without replacement) for the System account, either in the open market or directly from, to, or with the Treasury, as may be necessary, in the light of changing economic conditions and the general credit situation of the country, for the practical administration of the account, for the maintenance of stable and orderly conditions in the Government security market, and for the purpose of relating the supply of funds in the market to the needs of commerce and business; provided that the total amount of securities in the account at the close of business on March 1, 1949, shall not be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000,000 exclusive of special short-term certificates of indebtedness purchased for the temporary accommodation of the Treasury pursuant to paragraph (2) of this direction;

(2) To purchase direct from the Treasury for the System open market account such amounts of special short-term certificates of indebtedness as may be necessary from time to time for the temporary accommodation of the Treasury; provided that the total amount of such certificates held in the account at any one time shall not exceed \$750,000,000.

In taking this action it was understood that the limitation contained in the direction included commitments for purchases and sales of securities for the System account.

Thereupon the meeting adjourned.

Chester Morris
Secretary.

Approved:

Thomas B. Lee Cole
Chairman.