

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.



DIRECTOR

March 6, 1946

The Honorable
Marriner Eccles
Chairman
Federal Reserve System
Washington, D. C.

Dear Marriner:

We are entering the most critical period in the stabilization program. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that the next ninety days will decide whether or not we are going to be able to control prices or whether we are going to lose the long fight for economic stability.

In setting up this new office I am anxious to get the best advice and help available throughout the government. I am sure that unless this program can be handled as a team operation it can never hope to be wholly effective. For this reason I would like to get your services as a member of an Advisory Committee that will meet regularly to discuss the basic stabilization problems and how they can be handled most successfully.

I would like to keep these meetings limited to a small group, all of who have had experience in the program and who can clearly contribute to its success. In addition to yourself, I have asked John Small, Fred Vinson, Clint Anderson, Harold Smith, Henry Wallace, Will Clayton, and Paul Porter, to serve.

I would like to set up the first meeting at our office in Federal Reserve for a week from Tuesday at eleven o'clock, and I do hope that you can come.

Sincerely,

Chester Bowles
Director

March 11, 1946.

Dear Chet:

It is scarcely necessary for me to say that I agree entirely with your letter of March 6 that the next ninety days are probably crucial in determining whether or not this struggle against inflationary pressures is going to win or lose. I would be more than pleased to be available as you suggest and to give you any help that is within my capacity.

I agree also that it is wise to keep the meetings limited to a comparatively small group. Otherwise, they tend to degenerate into debating societies and frustration, especially when representatives of interests outside the Government are included.

I understand from your office that the first meeting is tomorrow, that is, Tuesday, March 12, at eleven o'clock. I shall be on hand.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Chester Bowles,
Director, Office of
Economic Stabilization,
Washington, D. C.

ET:b
Chet