

# Committee For Constitutional Government

Incorporated Under the Laws of the District of Columbia

**OFFICERS**  
**WILLFORD I. KING**  
CHAIRMAN  
**SUMNER GERARD**  
TREASURER

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
ADDRESS ALL MAIL  
205 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 4-1102

April 15, 1949

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles  
Federal Reserve Board  
Washington, D. C.

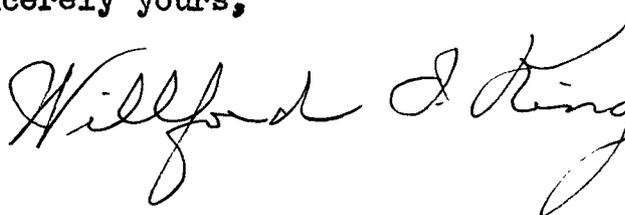
Dear Mr. Eccles:

The N. Y. Times of April 9th, quotes you as saying:  
"It has seemed with increasing clarity to me that the best way to avoid ultimate war is to confront the Soviets with the decisions which will lay the foundations and the conditions of a lasting peace while we have the strength to do so."

"If the Kremlin is not willing to accept such a settlement, backed up by the moral force of free peoples all over the world and by countless others now enslaved, then is it not better to know it as soon as possible?"

I am delighted to see a man of your standing who is intelligent and brave enough to face the facts and demand action. Most of the people in public life seem inclined, instead, to hide their heads in the sand. More power to you!

Very sincerely yours,



WIK:mg

PARTIAL LIST OF  
ADVISORY BOARD

SAMUEL B. PETTENBILL  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA  
EDWARD H. MOORE  
TULSA, OKLA.  
S. B. MCCLURE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
WILLIAM MACFERRAN, JR.  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
FRANK E. GANNETT  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.  
COLONEL O. R. MCGUIRE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
EDWARD R. EASTMAN  
ITHACA, N. Y.  
W. C. DENNIS  
RICHMOND, INDIANA  
THOMAS JAMES NORTON  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
O. A. TAYLOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
HENRY L. STODDARD  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
REV. B. K. WILSON, B. J.  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
HON. EDWARD R. BURKE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
BLEASON L. ARCHER  
BOSTON, MASS.  
E. RANDOLPH WILLIAMS  
RICHMOND, VA.  
ROBERT G. ALLEN  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
MRS. JOHN R. MCCARL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MRS. H. DOORLY  
OMAHA, NEB.  
CANTON O'DONNELL  
DENVER, COLO.  
ROBERT B. DRESSER  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
LOUIS J. TABER  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
MALCOLM McDERMOTT  
DURHAM, N. C.  
FRED H. BEXAUER  
AUBURN, N. Y.  
LAMAR FLEMING, JR.  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
HON. HARRY WOODRINE  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
J. R. BREED  
KANSAS CITY, MO.  
J. B. KIMMEL  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
LINDOLN COLCORD  
SEASPORT, MAINE  
J. H. GIBSON  
CALDWELL, IDAHO  
HARVEY C. FRUEHAUF  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

May 12, 1949.

Dr. Willford I. King,  
205 East 42nd Street,  
New York 17, New York.

Dear Mr. King:

At the time of the receipt of your letter of April 15, I was away from Washington and did not return until recently when I found such an accumulation of official matters requiring Board attention and personal correspondence that I did not reach your letter until today. I wish to thank you for your very kindly comment upon the portion of my speech at San Francisco which was quoted in the New York Times of April 9 in regard to relations with the Russians. Since you may be interested in the entire speech from which this quotation was taken, I am enclosing a copy

With my best regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

M. S. Eccles.

Enclosure

CM:am

# FEATURES for AMERICA'S FUTURE, SYNDICATED

210 EAST 43rd STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

## INSIDE YOUR CONGRESS

By RALPH W. GWINN\*  
Distinguished Member of Congress,  
Lecturer and Author

## KING'S COMMENTS

By DR. WILLFORD I. KING\*  
Nationally Recognized Economist,  
Economics-Professor Emeritus, New York University

\*VOICING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT VIEWS AND NOT THOSE OF ANY ORGANIZATION

► **CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL DATE OF RELEASE**

*Mr. Gode*  
Release # 21

April 12, 1949

### THE NEW MAGINOT LINE

By WILLFORD I. KING

The North Atlantic Pact has been signed amid much pomp and ceremony. What does this mean for the people of the United States?

George Washington warned us against entangling alliances. Now, our Secretary of State has affixed his name to a treaty that entangles our affairs with those of Western Europe. True, we do not absolutely bind ourselves to go to the aid of any ally that is attacked, but, if that attack is unprovoked, we cannot honorably avoid entering the fray. Clearly, then, we are violating the principle laid down by our first President.

However, our present action does not mark a change in American policy. The break occurred thirty-two years ago when Congress decided that Kaiser Wilhelm's attempt to dominate the world constituted a threat to our own safety. It was then that our nation first officially recognized the necessity of extending across the ocean the principle of "United we stand; divided we fall." When, nearly a quarter of a century later, President Roosevelt decided to trade warships for bases, he was clearly following the same policy initiated by Woodrow Wilson.

Today, it is even more obvious than it was in 1917 that we cannot safely ignore what is going on across the ocean. When planes can fly non-stop from Europe to the United States and back again, we can no longer feel that the Atlantic Ocean furnishes adequate protection. With the Russian Politburo and the ruthless Stalin seeking world domination, it appears that we have the choice either of hanging together or hanging separately. Therefore, it behooves Americans to welcome and support the North Atlantic Pact.

But, specifically, what other than perhaps good will, can we hope to gain from it? The commonest answer seems to be that allied European forces will be able to delay and perhaps block the westward advance of Stalin's huge armies. But we know that democratic socialism has so weakened the economic structures of Western European nations that its victims are compelled to ask us for aid to keep their peace-time governmental establishments from collapsing. What chance, then, is there that these enfeebled nations can equip armies which will be any match for Stalin's millions

Armed by factory workers who must either produce or die? How can we be sure that, if we furnish the arms, and the Western Europeans supply the men, the outcome will not be the same as in North China -- namely that the enemy will capture the arms and use them against us? This danger is enhanced by the fact that much of Western Europe is infested with Communists who will do everything in their power to aid the Russians. All in all, therefore, it appears that it would be most unwise for us to depend for protection upon a new Maginot Line formed by our allies.

But is not this a completely erroneous conception of the purpose of the North Atlantic Pact? The French, in 1939, put their trust in the Maginot Line because they were thinking in terms of World War I. Are we not making the same mistake if we now think in terms of World War II? Ought we not, instead, to picture World War III as something radically different? Ought we not, indeed, to envision a huge squadron of Russian planes laden with atomic bombs speeding through the night bound for the political and industrial capitals and for the airfields of the unsuspecting allies? The pilots of these planes would not be even mildly interested in how many troops or tanks or ships or guns were possessed by their opponents. Their plan would be to paralyze their opponents before the sleeping victims knew that danger threatened. If the Russian mission succeeded, the North Atlantic Pact would be merely another scrap of paper -- burned up in a few seconds. Retaliation would be impracticable. Resistance would mean suicide. Stalin would dictate to the world.

In view of the changed nature of warfare, can the North Atlantic Pact -- this new Maginot Line -- be of any real use to us? The answer is -- it can -- but only if we use it intelligently. Our allies can furnish us with airfields located within striking distance of strategic Russian centers, and can help us to protect these airfields against seizure by Fifth Columnists. If, before Russia is ready to send out a huge air armada armed with atomic bombs, we give her the choice either of accepting the Baruch Plan or its equivalent, or being wiped off the map, the North Atlantic Pact may be very useful to us and to all of our allies. If, on the other hand, we allow debate to drag on endlessly while our foes arm, our new Maginot Line will offer us no better protection than the old one gave to France. And perhaps historians of the future will say in cold appraisal that we were too stupid to deserve survival.

---

# Committee For Constitutional Government

Incorporated Under the Laws of the District of Columbia

**OFFICERS**  
DR. WILLFORD I. KING  
CHAIRMAN  
SUMNER GERARD  
TREASURER

May 14, 1949

ADDRESS ALL MAIL  
205 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 4-1102  
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles  
Board of Governors  
Federal Reserve System  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Eccles:

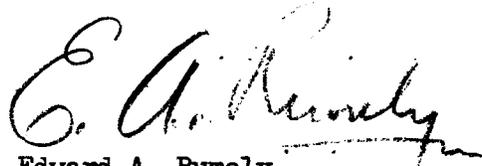
Dr. King has allowed me to see your address of April 8th in San Francisco. It has much material of tremendous interest. I should like to supply a copy to Brigadier General Disque who thinks on the military situation as you. On Monday I shall send you a copy of his statement.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether you can have your secretary supply five additional copies of your speech which I should like to place with important individuals.

I recall pleasantly the conferences between you and Frank A. Vanderlip when we were operating the Committee for the Nation working for reflation. Then you were ready to grapple with the problems of deflation as you are now with those of inflation.

Thanks for the copies if you can supply them.

Sincerely yours,



Edward A. Rumely  
Executive Secretary

**PARTIAL LIST OF  
ADVISORY BOARD**

EDWARD H. MOORE  
TULSA, OKLA.  
WILLIAM MAGFERRAN, JR.  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
FRANK E. GANNETT  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.  
COLONEL O. R. McGUIRE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
EDWARD R. EASTMAN  
ITHACA, N. Y.  
W. C. DENNIS  
RICHMOND, INDIANA  
THOMAS JAMES MORTON  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
G. A. TAYLOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
REV. S. K. WILSON, S. J.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
HON. EDWARD R. BURKE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
GLEASON L. ARCHER  
BOSTON, MASS.  
E. RANDOLPH WILLIAMS  
RICHMOND, VA.  
ROBERT S. ALLEN  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
MRS. JOHN R. MCCALL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MRS. H. DOORLY  
OHAMA, NEB.  
CANTON O'DONNELL  
DENVER, COL.  
ROBERT S. DRESSER  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
LOUIS J. TABER  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
MALCOLM McDERMOTT  
BURNHAM, N. C.  
FRED H. SEXAUER  
AUBURN, N. Y.  
LAMAR FLEMING, JR.  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
HON. HARRY WOODRING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
J. R. BREED  
KANSAS CITY, MO.  
J. S. KIMMEL  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
J. H. GIPSON  
DALWELL, IDAHO  
HARVEY C. FRUENAU  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
E. S. SALLAHER  
NORWALK, CONN.

EAR/McC

May 16, 1949.

My dear Mr. Rumley:

It is most gratifying to have your assurance that my address before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco on April 8th has much material of tremendous interest, and to learn that Brigadier General Disque thinks as I do on the military situation. I greatly appreciate your sending me your letter of May 14.

In accordance with your request, I am having my secretary enclose with this letter six copies of the address. I hope the people receiving them will find my views interesting, even though they may not agree with what I have said. I will be particularly interested in hearing the reaction of Brigadier General Disque, and I am looking forward to reading his recent statement which you advise you are sending to me.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles.

Mr. Edward A. Rumely, Executive Secretary,  
Committee for Constitutional Government,  
National Press Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

# Committee For Constitutional Government

Incorporated Under the Laws of the District of Columbia

**OFFICERS**  
DR. WILLFORD I. KING  
CHAIRMAN  
SUMNER GERARD  
TREASURER

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS  
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADDRESS ALL MAIL  
205 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 4-1102

May 27, 1949

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles  
Board of Governors  
Federal Reserve System  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

Your address, delivered on April 8th, at The Commonwealth Club of California, has just come to my attention.

I am delighted to see that one important Government official is not afraid to point out, openly, the folly of our policy in dilly-dallying while Russia prepares atomic bombs to destroy us. Would that we had more men of your forthright character and possessed of willingness to face the facts, rather than to hide their heads in the sand.

Very sincerely yours,



Chairman

WIK:mg

PARTIAL LIST OF  
ADVISORY BOARD

SAMUEL B. PETTENBILL  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA  
EDWARD H. MOORE  
TULSA, OKLA.  
S. S. McCLURE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
WILLIAM MACFERRAN, JR.  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
FRANK E. GANNETT  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.  
COLONEL D. R. McGUIRE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
EDWARD R. EASTMAN  
ITHACA, N. Y.  
W. C. DENNIS  
RICHMOND, INDIANA  
THOMAS JAMES MORTON  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
D. A. TAYLOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y.  
REV. S. K. WILSON, S. J.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
HON. EDWARD R. BURKE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
DR. GEORGE W. CRANE  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
GLEASON L. ARCHER  
BOSTON, MASS.  
E. RANDOLPH WILLIAMS  
RICHMOND, VA.  
ROBERT G. ALLEN  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
MRS. JOHN R. McCARL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MRS. H. DOORLY  
OMAHA, NEB.  
GANTON O'DONNELL  
DENVER, COL.  
ROBERT B. DRESSER  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.  
LOUIS J. TABER  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
MALCOLM McDERMOTT  
DURHAM, N. C.  
FRED H. SEXAUER  
AUBURN, N. Y.  
LAMAR FLEMING, JR.  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
HON. HARRY WOODRING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS  
J. R. BREED  
KANSAS CITY, MO.  
J. S. KIMMEL  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
J. H. GIPSON  
CALDWELL, IDAHO  
HARVEY C. FRUEHAUF  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

June 7, 1949.

Dear Mr. King:

Your letter of May 27 is very much appreciated. It is gratifying to me to have your favorable comment and approval of the remarks I made before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on April 8.

Again let me thank you for your generous personal references.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles.

Dr. Willford I. King,  
205 East 42nd Street,  
New York 17, New York.