

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1933

Hon. Eugene Meyer  
Federal Reserve Board  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Governor Meyer:

I received at half past one this morning your letter dated March 3rd. I must assume that this letter was written on the basis of information received by you prior to 11.30 o'clock last night for the reason that before your letter was sent you had certain information as follows:

a. At 11 o'clock last night the President-elect had informed me he did not wish such a proclamation issued.

b. The Attorney General had renewed the same opinion which he had already given to the Board that the authorities on which you were relying were inadequate unless supported by the incoming Administration.

c. That groups of representative bankers in both Chicago and New York, embracing members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Banks in those cities, were then in conference with the governors of the states of Illinois and New York, and that the governors of these two states were prepared to act if these representative groups so recommended. It appears that the governors did take action under their authorities, declaring a temporary holiday in these two critical states, and thus accomplishing the major purposes which the Board apparently had in mind.

In view of the above I am at a loss to understand why such a communication should have been sent to me in the last few hours of this Administration, which I believe the Board must now admit was neither justified nor necessary.

Yours faithfully,

*(See Secretary's memorandum  
covering Mar. 4-6, 1933  
in minutes.)*

*Hedrick H. Brown*