

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

First Anniversary Progress Report

Princeton  
January 29, 1955

TO: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
F. Cyril James  
William McC. Martin, Jr.  
Walter W. Stewart  
Joseph H. Willits  
Donald B. Woodward, Secretary

Because this meeting comes so shortly after January 17th, the first anniversary of the opening of the Committee's office, you may find useful an informal recapitulation of the year's work. Strictly speaking, that work was, as you remember, done in two phases, with a pilot grant of \$10,000 for four months (January 15 - May 15, 1954) followed by a five-year grant which began July 1, 1954. You had a report on the pilot phase when it was finished; a formal annual report on the first year under the major grant, with appropriate financial details, is not due until July 1, 1955. This account is therefore rather in the nature of a birthday candle, shedding light but imposing no responsibility.

Despite the difficulties which might have been created by the shift from pilot phase to major grant, we were, with the aid of Rockefeller budgetary kindness and Brookings bookkeeping skill, able to bridge the technical gap between May 15th and July 1st and keep on working. This continuity of the work process has tended to blur the operative differences between the pilot phase and the five-year project. The important distinctions are: (1) in the pilot phase we made no sub-grants, whereas since July 1st, we have commissioned three projects, one of which (the Kincaid-Glass) is finished, and the other two (Chandler-Strong and Burnett-Archives) are under way; (2) while we are continuing to pursue the four research processes so fruitful in the pilot phase (paper chase, interview, bank visit and card-file building), we are now able to enlarge their scope and to deepen their content.

Work Basis

Staff work in both first and second phases has thus far tended to center around these questions:

"What happened? When, where, and why?"

"Who and where are the people who helped build the System?"

"Where are their papers?"

"What about archives of Board and Banks - where are they, and what is in them?"

## People

We set to work on people and papers by collecting from Committee members a list of some 20 of the most important and obvious names, and then seeking interviews if they were still active, or papers if not. That list has been multiplied many times over. We now have a card catalogue of about 1500 persons, including all Board members, Bank officers and directors, the government officials, economists, monetary experts -- all of them concerned in some way with Federal Reserve development. We do not yet pretend that the list is complete, but we intend that it shall be. For these people we are collecting at least skeleton biographic and career data.

Keyed to this alphabetical list is a card file of the twelve banks, each with its senior officers and directors, arranged chronologically. These two files will provide clues to the persons whom an historian of the System may need to identify.

## Interviews

The interview process has yielded both more and less than we hoped (we have records of the 100 interviews thus far held): more, in terms of operating knowledge of early years, acquaintance with the men who made the System what it is, a treasure of anecdotes which illumine the story; less, because deeper matters of policy and controversy seldom come out in first interviews, and the interviewer must know more than has hitherto been possible in order to decide what are the most fruitful questions that can be asked.

We have been exploring the methods of the Columbia Oral History Project and of the psychological laboratory at Michigan in an attempt to see whether their experience may help us with interviews in greater depth. We hope to begin very shortly an experiment in group interviews for which the Executive Committee recently made financial provision.

## Papers

The paper chase, which began so fortunately, still continues to yield good results. The returns are perhaps spottier, but they still come, and the possible sources are by no means exhausted. We now have records of more than 70 collections which bear on the System, scattered among the Library of Congress, various university libraries, and private owners. We have not wanted to amass material in the Committee office, but we do intend to compile as complete a record as possible of the whereabouts and the contents of pertinent collections. In the process, an excellent degree of cooperation has been established with the Library of Congress, and we are now in the position of being able to recommend various types of depositories for newly discovered collections.

These 70-odd collections of which we have record represent only a fraction of what we hope to find. The continuing threat is that valuable papers will be destroyed for lack of knowing that a responsible group is interested in them. We are now framing a letter to older officers on our lists asking them to consider the aims of this Committee in providing for the disposition of their papers.

Meanwhile, the problem of handling is still troublesome, though we know much more about it than we did a year ago. The high cost of providing an inventory for the Carter Glass papers has moved the Executive Committee to ask for a report on the scope and estimated costs of the paper problem. That report is in preparation.

### Bank Visits

Introduced by letters from Mr. Sproul to other Bank Presidents, your research director has visited six of the regional banks (not counting New York) and plans to visit the other five before the end of May. These visits are for three days, obviously superficial, but productive of much information and helpful in the building of the kind of confidence which must be established between the Committee and the banks on lower as well as higher levels, if the questions we ask are to be answered and the material supplied. The banks have been most kind and most cooperative. We hope to have more luck with the archives inquiry when this first-hand exploration is finished.

### Projects

The cataloguing of the Carter Glass papers which, conceived in the pilot phase, was the first project commissioned, is completed except for an index. Decision as to whether to publish is being postponed until we have more information as to the Committee's eventual publication schedule.

Dr. Chandler has, since September, been working on the Benjamin Strong papers one day a week. After February first, he expects to increase that time-schedule to four days a week.

The project for exploring and collating information about Board and Bank archives, which Miss Burnett began in October on a part-time basis, has languished because considerable preliminary investigation was needed before she could usefully start. She has been most helpful in bibliographic aspects of Committee work and in the continuing paper chase. Meanwhile, the preliminary work of querying banks about files and archives is being done through personal visits on the part of the research director. This means delay, which is unfortunate but apparently unavoidable.

## Files

When the Committee chooses its historian, we assume that the research work done by the staff will take on new dimensions. Meanwhile, we continue to put into four card files the basic data about people, banks, legislation, policy actions, hearings, speeches, unpublished material, articles, books and so on, which an historian could reasonably be expected to ask for. We have mentioned the Persons file and the Bank file. The third is the Time file, which attempts to collate the responsible people with the various types of events affecting the System. The fourth, developing a new approach to a System bibliography, is the special province of Miss Katherine McKinstry whose years with Dr. Williams have given her a wide familiarity with the needs of scholars as well as with the rarer fields of theses and periodical literature. We have also had fine bibliographic assistance from Miss Sutherland, Librarian at the Board.

## Future

The aim of all this work and these accretions is to prepare to serve the research workers who will be seeking information as the history-writing phase develops. A year of effort enables us to be at least better supplied with data than when we started. The outline-memo prepared for this meeting shows how much further we still have to go. Having spent 1954 in primary exploration, we are hoping that 1955 may make it possible to use some of what we have and to go deeper for the major aspects which are still to be gathered.

Mildred Adams  
Research Director



# COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

## Progress Report No. 7

November 19, 1954

TO: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
F. Cyril James  
William McC. Martin, Jr.  
Walter W. Stewart  
Joseph M. Willits  
Donald S. Woodward, Secretary

The work of this Committee has made notable progress in the last two months. Projects long planned have come into being; the cooperative effort represented by the conference at Princeton holds high hope for the history itself; and new quarters have made the staff work easier.

### Projects

The Kincaid examination of the Carter Glass Papers is finished, and the "Inventory of 423 Boxes on Deposit in the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia" promises to be a valuable aid to students working in this field. A separate memorandum on the details of this project is appended. The number of boxes found and catalogued (423) is almost twice the number estimated by the librarian (216) and accepted as the basis on which the project was undertaken. A final accounting of the grant to Dr. Kincaid has not been received, but conversations indicate that his costs will not run much past the amount provided.

Dr. Lester Chandler started work on September 27th with the Benjamin Strong Papers in an office kindly provided by the New York Federal Reserve Bank. (Since then, he and his papers have been moved into the Committee's new quarters). From September until February, he will be spending every Monday on work for the book. From February forward, he expects to be devoting full time to this.

Miss Marguerite Burnett, formerly librarian of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, started work October 13th on a part time basis to identify and explore archival material in the twelve regional banks. Thus far, she has chiefly been occupied with taking soundings in a field surprisingly diverse and unmapped. We are developing hopes, but it is too early to expect results.

### History Writers

The steps which led to the happy decision to invite Dr. Bopp, Dr. Chandler, and Dr. Wood to work with the Committee on a closer defining of our desires (including an outlining of the "grand design" and perhaps of the history itself) have been reported as taken; they need no repetition here. As for the man, or men, who may write the history, the hope is that an agreed choice may emerge in the course of these Princeton meetings.

### Next Step

As you know, the Princeton conference is a three-day affair -- Saturday (the 20th) and Monday (the 22nd) for the three experts, Sunday (the 21st) for the Committee. After the Monday meeting, the experts will go their ways to wrestle separately or confer by correspondence or telephone with the problems set before them. At the end of some six weeks, they hope to come up with recommendations which they would like to present at a second full conference, perhaps on the week-end of January 7-8th.

### Committee Organization

In accordance with the Committee's wish, Dr. Joseph Willits and Dr. Shepard Clough have been asked to join this Committee. Dr. Willits has accepted. Dr. Clough is in Europe, and no reply from him has yet been received.

### Publishing Plans

The summary of interviews with publishers, promised in this report, has been postponed for the next one.

### Housekeeping

The Committee staff and office have been moved from a single room on the 6th floor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to a pleasant, quiet, and comfortable three-room suite on the 11th floor. This makes possible a much more efficient separation of work needs; it gives Miss Adams a private office, provides a research room in which Dr. Chandler, Miss Burnett, and Miss McKinstry have desks and file space, and adds to the ease of handling clerical work. Committee thanks are owing to the New York Bank.

Mildred Adams  
Research Director

## COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Report on Kincaid Project

The inventory of the Carter Glass Papers at the University of Virginia, which was undertaken early in the summer by Dr. Elbert Kincaid and three graduate students working under his supervision, has been completed. The list fills 614 mimeographed pages and describes the Glass material contained in 423 boxes on the shelves of the Alderman Library at the University. The contents of each box are given at least a page, and in some instances, two or three pages. This system makes it possible to place in each box the page (or pages) which constitute the inventory of that box, as well as to bind the whole inventory into a volume usable by students.

The value of the inventory as an aid to locating items depends, of course, on the inviolability of the present arrangement of papers within the boxes where they are now catalogued. It might have been safer had each item been given an item number and a box number. It also would have seemed that some re-arrangement might have been advantageous. Neither idea has yet been welcomed by the library authorities. For the sake of the inventory's continued usefulness, one can only hope that their opinion as to the orderliness of future users of the collection is not misplaced.

No index to the inventory was made by Dr. Kincaid, and the funds provided him are not sufficient to cover this extra work. (In fairness to him, it should be noted that the estimate of boxes provided by the librarian in the beginning was 216, whereas the number actually found was 423, so that the work done was almost twice as much as anticipated). An index of names and subjects would be a primary need of any student using this inventory. Dr. Kincaid would like to make such an index himself, but there are reasons why the staff thought it better to get independent estimates in New York.

Now that we actually have the inventory sheets in hand, questions arise as to the kind of index to be provided, the way in which the finished work should be bound, the number of copies which are desirable, the procedure for distribution and so on. These matters will be proposed for consideration by the Executive Committee at a later date.

Provided with an index, suitably bound, distributed to appropriate centers of research, this inventory will have great value for students of these papers and the public events on which they bear. A great deal has been learned in the process which will be valuable for the next undertaking of this sort -- (perhaps the Goldensweiner Papers?).

Hildred Adams  
Research Director

Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 6

August 31, 1954

To: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
F. Cyril James  
William McC. Martin, Jr.  
Walter W. Stewart  
Donald B. Woodward, Secretary

The daily pace of Committee work during the two mid-summer months has seemed at moments to resemble that of a slow snail, but a glance back at June 24th, date of the last report, does show progress.

Projects

The Kincaid examination of the Carter Glass papers is, according to a recent letter from Dr. Kincaid, three-quarters done, and due to be finished by September 15th. The papers, which are in chronological order, have not been rearranged, but Dr. Kincaid is making a complete inventory of which he will furnish us copies. He says that "many interesting documents which would be of great interest to an historian or a biographer" have been uncovered.

Dr. Lester Chandler is due back from Europe at the end of this month, and we have every reason to expect that early in September he will be starting work on "Benjamin Strong, Central Banker".

Miss Marguerite Burnett, recently retired as Librarian of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, will start work on October first in a first attempt to make a master list of the archival material in the twelve regional banks. She begins this pioneer study on a part-time basis. Some exploratory work has been done by Miss Adams in the visits already made to five of the banks, but only enough to show how much more will be needed before this source material can be listed so as to be of use to students.

Meanwhile the National Records Management Council has done a pilot study which will be of value to us in helping to solve problems of handling newly discovered papers. Using two small collections as trial material, they have sorted, analyzed and appraised the papers, and set them up in a form which should be very useful to scholars. This work provided a basis for time studies which will enable them to estimate costs of handling other and larger collections. The task was done without expense to this Committee, but in an attempt to demonstrate the Councils' methods and with the hope that we could use their services

for other papers. The work is admirable, and there is every reason to believe that we now have at hand an expert agency to which the task of examining, indexing and evaluating collections can be entrusted.

### History Writers

Some progress has been made in the search for an economic historian who might write the definitive history of the System which continues to be the core of this project.

Dr. Burgess has kindly furnished a preliminary memo indicating what areas interest him - he does not want to undertake the history itself.

Two men, Dr. Elmer Wood of the University of Missouri and Dr. Harold Reed, recently retired from Cornell, have been so often mentioned by Committee members as possibly desirable that it seemed wise to explore the degree of their interest and their potential attitudes toward an invitation to work on the project. To this end Miss Adams, on a mid-summer trip to Federal Reserve Banks in St. Louis and Chicago, flew to Denver over an intervening weekend so as to interview Dr. Wood, then on vacation. Later she visited Dr. Reed at Ithaca.

The net result in both cases was negative in the sense that neither man seems in a position to be receptive to an invitation to undertake work in this project - Dr. Wood because he is working on a book which needs two more years for finishing, Dr. Reed because he is still "recovering from forty years of teaching" and not eager to embark on a task demanding such long concentration of effort. On the positive side, the conversations served to enlist the interest of both these scholars. They have made valuable suggestions, and they will be glad to be consulted further when we need them. Each has agreed to send us the name of any younger man in this field who could be recommended as a possible candidate for some sector of this work.

This leaves two younger men, Dr. Karl Bopp of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and Dr. Edward Shaw of Stanford University next on the list of the warily recommended.

Dr. Edward Shaw's name has been proposed by Dr. Robert Calkins, who recommends him as an able scholar, a good writer, having a brilliant analytical mind, and an informed interest in banking problems. Dr. Calkins is bringing Dr. Shaw on from Stanford University in September to do a study of Trends in Commercial Banking under the auspices of Brookings.

Born in New Mexico in 1908, Dr. Shaw was graduated from Stanford in 1929 and given his doctorate there in 1936. Upon graduation he entered the Stanford economics faculty. In 1941 he was made a full professor, with a year as executive head of the department, a post which he resumed in 1948. Outside the University, Dr. Shaw held a Social Science Research Council fellowship for the purpose of studying monetary theory and the London money market. The war took him to Washington where from 1942 to 1943 he was Chief economist in the Textile, Leather and Apparel Division of the OPA. From 1943 to 1945 he ranked as lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve. His writing has mostly taken the form of studies for economic journals, but he has one full-length volume on "Money,



Income and Monetary Policy" which was published as a text book by Richard D. Irwin of Chicago in 1950. In that, his style is informal and readable.

A recent letter from Dr. Calkins indicates that it might be possible to transfer Dr. Shaw from his study of Trends in Commercial Banking to this history project if the Committee so desires. Decision in this matter should preferably be made before the commercial banking study gets too far under way.

Dr. Bopp's name, one of the first suggested, has been repeatedly stressed by various people. He has been very helpful in discussing this project, but has thus far turned aside informal suggestions that his own skills might be sought in the writing of the history.

Born in 1906, graduated from the University of Missouri (with his doctorate from that institution in 1931) Dr. Bopp attracted wide attention in 1935 when the University of Missouri published his penetrating study on "The Agencies of Federal Reserve Policy". He taught at Missouri from 1931 to 1941, then went to the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank as Director of Research. In 1947 he was made a vice president. Meanwhile he acted as technical secretary at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, and has lectured both at Princeton and at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Bopp now divides his time between the work of the Bank and lectures at Pennsylvania. From time to time he produces studies of central banking in the United States or in selected European countries. His scholarship is considered impeccable, his style is generally crisp and uncluttered. He has not yet produced a full-length book.

Thus far it has been assumed that Dr. Bopp was so valued by the Philadelphia Bank that he could not be released for the writing of the history even if he himself wanted to undertake it. This, like the question as to whether Dr. Bopp might be open to high-level persuasion if the Bank would lend him for this work, is a matter which the Committee may like to ponder.

A third suggestion is that Dr. Chandler himself may be so immersed in Federal Reserve matters after he finishes the Strong book that he will then want to start on the full-dress history. He is a warm friend of Dr. Bopp and Dr. Wood. Conceivably this expert triumvirate might fashion some kind of a working arrangement which would bring the knowledge, skills and judgement of all three men to bear on the project.

Committee comment on or additions to these suggestions will be most welcome.

### Committee Organization

Replies to the second list of names to be added to this Committee resulted in a majority vote for Dr. Frederick Lane, professor of history at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Willits has been asked to discuss the matter with Dr. Lane, and a reply is expected this week. Meanwhile Dr. F. Cyril James has accepted the Committee's invitation and a file of progress reports to date has been sent him.

The quarterly report of the Rockefeller Foundation which was expected to announce on July 15th the granting of funds to the Brookings Institution for the work of this Committee was delayed by the demands for information made by

the Reece Committee. It has just been issued; relevant newspaper reports bear the date August 25th. The language used by the Foundation is as follows:

"Two grants totaling \$685,000 have been made to the Brookings Institution by The Rockefeller Foundation. An outright grant of \$375,000 will help to establish a new program of research and education. Preparation of a history of the Federal Reserve System will be partially financed by the other appropriation, amounting to \$310,000.

....

The proposed history of the Federal Reserve System will include an appraisal of this unusual invention of government, and a review and analysis of its functioning as illumined by the papers and memories of men who helped develop it. How such a mechanism of monetary control, uniquely adapted to our needs, came to be established, by what devices it has endured and thrived, and a study of its role in both government and the economy will be some phases dealt with."

With this announcement in hand a letter can now be drafted which will spread information about the project to interested scholars in the banks and the academic world.

#### Papers

The work of uncovering new sources of material is by no means finished. On a recent visit to Chicago Miss Adams learned that the papers of James B. Forgan, who played an important part in the formative years of the Board and the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, fill several packing cases in the storage basement of the First National Bank. The papers of Melvin Traylor are also there. Both collections can be made available for the purposes of this Committee.

#### Publishing Plans

At the suggestion of the executive committee we have started on a series of conferences with publishers as a start toward making plans for publishing the eventual fruits of this project. Their recommendations will be included in the next progress report.

Mildred Adams  
Executive Director



Committee to Study the History of the Federal Reserve System

June 24, 1954

Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
William McC. Martin, Jr.  
Walter W. Stewart  
Donald B. Woodward

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 5

The month which has elapsed since the Rockefeller Foundation approved this Committee's request for a major grant has been divided between continuing the work of the pilot phase and preparing for the longer and different period ahead.

Committee Expansion

It was decided May 11th that, in the event of the favorable reply which has now come, the Committee would be enlarged and its scope widened by the addition of three members, to be drawn, if possible, from the ranks of historians, economists and political scientists. (The third category was inexplicably dropped from the minutes of that meeting, for which apologies herewith.) A list of suggested names was circulated, but only that of Dr. Cyril James met general approval. He has been invited to join the Committee, but no reply has yet been received.

A second list is appended to this Progress Report - your comments are needed.

Executive Committee

At a meeting of the executive committee (Messrs Burgess, Calkins and Woodward) in Washington on June 11th a budget was approved for the fiscal year July 1st, 1954 - June 30th, 1955. This, which calls for an expenditure on office costs and projects slightly less than that foreseen in the Proposal (\$53,325 in place of \$54,500) has been forwarded to the Rockefeller Foundation with a request for the first year's funds. The summary is as follows:

ESTIMATED BUDGET  
July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955

Annual Budget as Estimated for 1954-55

Annual Salaries, office costs and Research	
Contracts .....	\$ 32,325
Travel Costs .....	3,000
Brookings Expenses and Overhead .....	3,000
Contingencies and other expenses (including future research contracts) .....	15,000
	\$ 53,325

It was agreed that the idea of providing an understudy for Miss Adams, which has proved troublesome, should be dropped from budget and staff considerations for the time being. The staff as approved would consist of Miss Adams, Miss McKinstry as research assistant (1/2 time), a competent secretary and a typist.

The Committee's chairman, Mr. Sproul, has agreed that in the future he will sit on the Executive Committee. Thus far that Committee has made no formal rules for itself, but provisions for action by a quorum, and for telephone consent by absent members, are under consideration.

Projects

The Kincaid project for sorting and study of the Carter Glass papers is under way. Work started June 15th, with an agreed grant of \$4,000 (of which a fee of \$1,500 goes to Professor Kincaid) and an understanding that the work would hold September 15th as its target date of completion.

The Chandler project for a study to be entitled "Benjamin Strong - Central Banker" has been approved on the basis of further discussion, both with Miss Adams and with Dr. Calkins, and a supplementary memorandum. You will have received from Dr. Calkins a carbon of his letter of reassurance to Dr. Chandler, who was sailing for Europe June 21st. A more formal contract, to be signed by Dr. Chandler and by representatives of Brookings and this Committee, will be ready when the former returns in September. We hope to have publishing details ready for inclusion then.

A project for preparing a master file of the archival and bibliographic material in the regional banks has been under discussion, but the staff has not been able to get at it. Now that Miss Marguerite Burnett, librarian of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, is at the point of retiring it may be possible to secure her services for this on a part-time basis. A more detailed memorandum on this will follow shortly.

Papers

The hunt for papers continues to yield welcome results, and will be continued at least during this year.

The Adolph C. Miller papers have been deposited in the Federal Reserve Board, listed by them, and a copy of the list has been provided for the use of this Committee. Thus far no final place of deposit has been decided.

The Marriner Eccles papers, consisting of some twenty-six volumes bound and indexed, are in Mr. Eccles' office in Salt Lake City. Mr. Eccles is considering the Library of Congress as a place of final deposit for them.

We have been in touch with the daughter of Ernest Draper, former Board member recently deceased, and are told that papers and diaries will be held for our inspection.

The papers of A. Barton Hepburn are in the Library of the Columbia University School of Business.

The papers of Frederic H. Curtiss, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston from 1914 to 1944, are still in his possession. He gave us a few items on the understanding that they would be destroyed after notes had been made from them. This collection should be especially valuable for the early history of the Boston Bank.

The son of Oliver M. W. Sprague reports that his father kept few papers. He did, however, preserve letters from Benjamin Strong. These have been checked against the New York Bank files, their carbons located, and the originals returned to Mr. Theodore Sprague. We also have had photostat copies of a few important speeches of which duplicates could not be found.

The daughters of Albert Strauss report that their father left few papers. They have sent us a small set of speeches.

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Mildred Adams

Enc.

Second List of Names  
Suggested as Additional Committee Members

Please check your first and second choice, numbering them in that order:

More information has been requested concerning Dr. Frederic C. Lane, historian, whose name was circulated on the first list. Dr. Lane who is Professor of History at Johns Hopkins, has been famous as the author of studies of Venetian shipping during the Renaissance, but his interest is by no means confined to the 15th century. He was editor of the Journal of Economic History from 1943 to 1951, and did much to stimulate interest in that subject. He was historian for the Maritime Commission in 1946-47, and his Ships for Victory, published by the Johns Hopkins Press in 1951, is an account of American maritime activity in World War II. He spoke at the recent Columbia convocation on a paper presented by Kuznets.

Charles C. Abbott, economist, recently made Dean of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. Dr. Abbott got his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1933, taught there in the Department of Economics and the School of Business Administration from 1931 to 1954; served with the War Shipping Administration in 1942. His books include The New York Bond Market, Financing Business during the Transition (1946) and Management of the Federal Debt (1946).

Simon S. Kuznets, Professor of Political Economy at Johns Hopkins. Professor Kuznets, famous for his studies in capital formation, now President of the American Economic Association, is one of the best known of American economists.

Harold L. Reed, (aged 66) economist, Professor of Economics at Cornell since 1923, was a member of the New York State Banking Board from 1933 to 1944. His books include Development of Federal Reserve Policy (1922), Federal Reserve Policy 1921-30 (1930) and The Commodity Dollar (1934).

Joseph H. Willits, economist, recently Director for the Social Sciences at the Rockefeller Foundation (1939-1954), now going to the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Willits has been deeply interested in this project since its inception. His vision and his enthusiasm are of great value. He is well known to all members of this Committee.

Elmer Wood, economist, Professor of Economics at the University of Missouri since 1930. Professor Wood, who was the teacher of Karl Bopp and Lester Chandler, got his doctor's degree at Harvard in 1937. He was economist for the Senate committee which held the Gold and Silver Inquiry in 1924. Harvard granted him the David Wells Prize for his study on English Theories of Central Banking Control, 1819-58 which the Harvard Press published in 1939. Dr. Wood has been variously recommended as a Committee member, and as the historian who should be asked to undertake the definitive history.

David McCord Wright, economist, Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia, got his doctorate at Harvard in 1940, taught at the University of Virginia Law School in 1940; he was economic consultant to the National Resources Planning Board in 1943, Fulbright lecturer at Oxford in 1953, has been Professor at Virginia since 1940. His books include The Creation of Purchasing Power (1942), The Economics of Disturbance (1947), Democracy and Progress (1948) and Capitalism (1951). He was co-editor with Robert Roosa of Money, Trade and Economics Growth - essays in honor of J. H. Williams.

Committee to Study the History of the Federal Reserve System

Progress Report No. 4

May 17, 1954

To: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
William McC. Martin, Jr.  
Walter Stewart  
Donald B. Woodward, Secretary

Papers

The papers of John Skelton Williams, reported earlier to be in possession of his widow in Richmond, are to be deposited either in the Library of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville or in the Virginia Historical Society at Richmond. They include diaries, as well as speeches and some correspondence. After discussion with Mrs. Williams's son, Mr. John S. Williams, Jr., it seemed fairly certain that the family would choose the University of Virginia which, of the two institutions mentioned, has better facilities for making such collections available for students.

The papers of E. A. Goldenweiser, earlier reported to be in a storage warehouse in Princeton, have with some aid from this Committee, been brought to the Chevy Chase home of Mr. Goldenweiser's daughter. His son-in-law, Mr. Andrew Kamarck, reports that the collection contains "papers that would be of considerable value in a study of Federal Reserve history. Dr. Goldenweiser apparently kept a kind of official diary at a number of important points in the history of the Federal Reserve." Mr. Kamarck will, over the next six months, organize the material and list it for us. After that, the family would like to make it available to students, but under some arrangement by which they will know who is using it and that proper safeguards assure discretion. Dr. Walter Stewart of this Committee will advise with them on this.

The Committee's part in this includes a visit to Mrs. Goldenweiser by your research director and a volunteered promise of \$150.00 to help with handling charges. This small intervention apparently acted as a catalyst to resolve a situation that had continued confused and static since Mr. Goldenweiser's death.

The papers of Robert B. Warren have been collected and listed by his son Peter, and sent to Mr. Cyril James, Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, who plans a book from them, the exact form of which has yet to be decided. The collection includes some two hundred essays and memoranda, most of them unpublished, together with a small amount of correspondence. Other correspondence is known to exist, and will be gathered. Mr. James will send us a copy of the list of subjects covered in the essays and memoranda.

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Mildred Adams,  
Research Director.



COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Progress Report No. 3

March 17, 1954

To: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
William McC. Martin  
Walter W. Stewart  
Donald B. Woodward, Secretary

In the two weeks which have passed since you received the last progress report, the work then started has followed the course laid out.

Data

The index of key persons in the Federal Reserve System is steadily growing. So is the bibliography of unpublished material. The chronological index has moved from the planning to the operating stage. The subject index is to be started this week.

Interviews

The interview process is yielding results no less valuable for being somewhat different from what we had expected. We find that the things which men remember and recount on a first approach are not necessarily the things they might recall if closely pressed about what happened in a controversial situation. In this early phase, it has seemed best to question mostly in general terms rather than to press on detail.

If these interviews did no more than make the project come alive in the minds of men whose cooperation is vital to its success (and to that of the second phase) they would be worth while. In addition they get men to thinking about past events in which they played a part, and in the process they frequently set the past in proportion against the foreground of the present. This is of great help in working out the dimensions of the main project.

The Progress Report of February 8th listed some twenty-seven persons who had been interviewed. Some of these give us repeated



assistance. Since February 8th, we have had at least one interview with Brooks Willis, Arthur Willis, Eugene Meyer, Daniel W. Bell, George Vest, Miss Anna Youngman, Miss Meta Glass, Francis Berkeley of the University of Virginia Library, Professor Elbert Kincaid, Woodlief Thomas, Parker Willis, Ansgar Berge, Carl Pitman, Professor Arthur Cole, Roy Young, Walter Stark, Floyd Harrison, Mrs. Ogden Mills, Joseph Broderick, Robert Schiff, Miss Henrietta Larson of the Harvard Business Histories group, Jay Crane, John Sinclair, Joseph Dreibelbis, and James Warburg.

### Papers

The hunt for pertinent papers has recently yielded these items: The papers of Paul M. Warburg, now in the possession of his son James at his country home in North Greenwich, Connecticut, include a skeleton diary of the period 1907 to 1914, covering events leading to Mr. Warburg's taking of the oath of office as a member of the first Federal Reserve Board. There is also a diary of "Daily Happenings Bearing on the Work and Policy of the Board" from October 4 to 24, 1915.

The papers of James P. Warburg, housed in the same quarters, include a six-volume diary for the period 1933-34, covering both the banking holiday and the London Economic Conference.

The papers of Oliver M. W. Sprague are in his son's possession in the Cambridge house.

The pertinent papers of Walter Lichtenstein have been given to the Baker Library at Harvard.

The papers of H. Parker Willis are in the cellar and attic of the Willis house on Staten Island. If this Committee could make it possible, Mr. Parker Willis might go from Boston to Staten Island to set those papers in order, provided it is understood that he does not know how much of value may be found.

The papers of Norman H. Davis were left to the Council on Foreign Relations and are now (March 1954) in their hands. A final place of deposit has not been decided.

A collection of papers of Dr. Adolph C. Miller, has been found in an unused closet in Dr. Miller's home. They may be turned over to this Committee for temporary deposit at the Brookings Institution, until they can be sorted and a final depository chosen.

A small collection of papers left by Mr. Leon Fraser at the First National Bank of New York has been sent to this Committee and is now in our files.

We have not sought to acquire papers; when offered them, we have made other suggestions for their deposit. But in both the Fraser and

the Miller case circumstances made refusal difficult. It is, however, understood that these papers can be accepted only on a temporary basis.

The scope of inquiry has recently been widened by Mr. Sproul's kindness in writing a letter introducing the pilot project to the Presidents of the other eleven District Banks. We followed this by a first letter asking for certain information we needed from the other Reserve Banks, and by a personal visit to the Boston Federal Reserve Bank. Other visits to other Reserve Banks are in prospect.

We have had a change in personnel--Miss Meglio took the place of Mrs. Karius, and as clerical work was falling behind schedule we added another typist, Miss Krebs. Meanwhile, the Board librarian, Miss Sutherland, is kindly giving us bibliographic help with certain material in Washington, and the staff of the New York Federal Reserve Bank continues to be warmly cooperative.

#### Timing

The triple process of file making, introductory interview, and discovery of papers is still going forward, and we hope to continue it until May 1st, when the Rockefeller grant for the pilot project ends. Meanwhile we are also working on the design for the main project which should be ready for Committee members by early April. (A skeleton will be ready next week). We are still proceeding on the assumption that Committee members would rather be consulted individually than as a group. A meeting may, however, be necessary before April 18th, when the final draft, with the Committee's approval, must go to Dr. Willits.

Mildred Adams  
Research Director

# Committee to Study the History of the Federal Reserve System

## Progress Report No. 2

March 1, 1954

The first three weeks of this Committee's work have yielded good returns. Housekeeping details are well in hand, with pleasant offices made available in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (room 807), the Board in Washington and the Brookings Institution; in New York a research assistant (Miss Katherine McKinstry) and a secretary (Mrs. Edna Karius) are at work. Cooperation has been established in Bank and Board, with officers and staff in both institutions very helpful.

### Data

The index of key persons in the Federal Reserve development is well under way. The bibliography of unpublished material is started. The chronological index is in the planning stage. The subject index comes next, and for that we are getting expert advice.

### Interviews

At least one interview has been held with each of the following (in chronological order) -

Harold Roalse, William Trieber, Thomas Waage, George Harrison, Thomas Lamont, Russell Leffingwell, Gordon Wasson, Robert Roosa, Sam Carpenter, Winfield Reifler, Walter Stewart, Leslie Rounds, Arynness Wickens, Walter Logan, Dr. John Williams, Dr. Robert Calkins, Randolph Burgess, Carl Parry, Walter Wyatt, J. H. Case, Brooke Willis, Arthur Willis, Eugene Meyer, Daniel Bell, George Vest, Miss Anna Youngman, Miss Meta Glass, Professor Elbert Kincaid, Woodlief Thomas, Parker Willis, Ansgar Berge, Carl Pitman, Professor Arthur Cole, Roy Young, Walter Stark, Floyd Harrison, Mrs. Ogden Mills.

Also with Library and File Department heads - in New York Miss Burnett, Miss Dillistin, Miss von Roeschlaub; in Washington, Miss Sutherland, Miss Poeppel; Dr. Powell and Miss Katherine Brand of Recent Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress; Miss Pearl Hughey in Boston.

The average this far seems to run about ten interviews per week.

### Papers

As for discovery of documents and papers, we now know that; - The diaries of Charles Hamlin, Board member from 1914 to 1936, are at the Library of Congress. The collection consists of 365 volumes, of which 25 diaries. The papers of Governor Strong are divided between the New York Federal Reserve Bank, Princeton University, and a New York warehouse. The papers of Governor Harrison, in seven file drawers, taken with him when he left the New York Federal Reserve Bank, have been listed and are to be handed over to us.

The papers of Carter Glass are at the University of Virginia, and will be listed.

The papers of Charles Dawes are at Marietta, Ohio.

Nelson W. Aldrich papers (in 12 boxes) are at the Library of Congress.

So are the Woodrow Wilson papers, the George Norris papers, those of Newton D. Baker, those of Charles Evans Hughes, those of Calvin Coolidge.

The papers of Dr. Edwin Kemmerer are with the Benjamin Strong Collection at Princeton.

The papers of Dr. Emmanuel Goldenweiser, unsorted, are in a packing box in a Princeton warehouse.

The papers of John Skelton Williams are in the possession of his widow, still living, in Richmond.

The papers of Ogden Mills (in 25 boxes) are in his stepson's garage at Brookville, Long Island, and will be made available.

The papers of Paul Warburg are in the Greenwich house of his son James, and may be seen.

The papers of Oliver Sprague are in his son's house in Cambridge.

The papers of Walter Lichtenstein are in the Baker Library at Harvard.

The papers of H. Parker Willis are in cellar and attic of the Willis house on Staten Island.

The papers of Norman H. Davis were left to the Council on Foreign Relations, and are now (3/2/54) in their hands. Their final place of deposit is not yet determined.

Committee to Study the History of the Federal Reserve System

Progress Report No. 1

February 8, 1954

To: Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman  
W. Randolph Burgess  
Robert D. Calkins  
William McC. Martin  
Walter Stewart  
Donald Woodward

The first three weeks of this Committee's work have yielded good returns. Housekeeping details are well in hand, with pleasant offices made available in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (room 807), the Board in Washington and the Brookings Institution; in New York a research assistant (Miss Katherine McKinstry) and a secretary (Mrs. Edna Karius) are at work. Cooperation has been established in Bank and Board, with officers and staff in both institutions very helpful.

Data

The index of key persons in the Federal Reserve development is well under way. The bibliography of unpublished material is started. The chronological index is in the planning stage. The subject index comes next, and for that we are getting expert advice.

Interviews

At least one interview has been held with each of the following (in chronological order):

Harold Roelse, William Trieber, Thomas Waage, George Harrison, Thomas Lamont, Russell Leffingwell, Gordon Wasson, Robert Roosa, Sam Carpenter, Winfield Reifler, Walter Stewart, Leslie Rounds, Arynness Wickens, Walter Logan, Dr. John Williams, Dr. Robert Calkins, Randolph Burgess, Carl Parry, Walter Wyatt, J. H. Case.

Also with Library and File Department heads - in New York Miss Burnett, Miss Dillistin, Miss von Roeschlaub; in Washington, Miss Sutherland, Miss Poeppel; Dr. Powell and Miss Katherine Brand of Recent Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.

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The papers of Paul Warburg are in the Greenwich house of his son James, and may be seen.

## Timing

For the next three weeks this triple process of file making, introductory interview, discovery of papers, will go forward. After that we must start to prepare first a preview of the main project to which this survey of material is leading (to be in Dr. Willits' hands by April 1st) and then a statement of the various sectors of the main project itself (including of course a design for an internal history of the New York Federal Reserve Bank), in as much detail as possible. This last should be ready for Committee Members by April 10th--it is due to be in Dr. Willits' office by April 18th.

Committee members have been generous with individual help and advice. It may be necessary to ask for a joint meeting in March, but we will try to keep the committee process as occasional as possible.

Mildred Adams,  
Research Director.