

December 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

I am returning herewith your copy of the list of possible historians which you took to Washington yesterday. Copies have been made of it and will be distributed to the other members of the Executive Committee. I think that you took back to New York with you a copy of the other list.

Minutes of the meeting will follow shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York 45, New York

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N.Y.

RECTOR 2-5700

December 24, 1954

Dear Miss Adams:

I am sorry that I missed seeing you before Christmas but I am glad that you are not bound by banking rules and were able to close your office today.

Please let this note bring you my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Sproul

Miss Mildred Adams,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street,
New York 45, N.Y.

RECEIVED

DEC 27 1954

**COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

December 23, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

I thought you might want to know that after consulting Mr. Woodward and Dr. Calkins, I decided to follow the Brookings' pattern and close this office all day tomorrow, December 24th.

It is fine news that you are feeling yourself again and that I may look forward to seeing you in Washington on the 28th. In the meantime, we would all of us like to send you our very best wishes for a fine Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

November 24, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Mr. Woodward asks me to tell you that after canvassing members of the Executive Committee on the matter of dates for a meeting, he finds it impossible to fit a date that is free for you with one that is free for Mr. Burgess. Under those circumstances, his own preference would be to name a date convenient to you and possible for himself and Dr. Calkins, regretting that Mr. Burgess could not be present. December 14th might, he thinks, be such a date.

Before going further Mr. Woodward would like to be sure that this choice meets with your approval.

Most sincerely,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

November 19, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Enclosed with this are the Agenda, the Progress Report, and the Report on the Kincaid Project which you will want for the Princeton meeting on Sunday. If there is anything else you would like us to take, we would be grateful for word on it this afternoon.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

November 18, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

You will, I think, be pleased to hear that Dr. Joseph Willits has accepted membership in this Committee. Mr. Woodward phoned this morning that he had just received word. There is, however, some doubt about Dr. Willits' ability to attend the Princeton meeting.

Cordially yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

November 12, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Some time ago you were kind enough to suggest that I might be more comfortable with a private office. That suggestion was taken up, and I now want to report that the Committee staff and files have, thanks to Mr. Marcus Harris and his assistants, been moved to most pleasant offices in the east end of the building on the 11th floor.

We now have adequate working space for Dr. Chandler, Miss Burnett and Miss McKinstry, as well as for our own small staff, and we feel that the Committee's work is very well housed. It makes the work-day much better for all of us, and we all want you to know that we are very grateful to you.

Cordially yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, N. Y.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N.Y.

RECTOR 2-5700

November 1, 1954

Dear Miss Adams:

Thank you for the information about our Princeton meeting which you sent me with your letter of October 29.

I am in agreement with the opinion which you and Mr. Woodward have expressed that each of our "experts" should receive the same honorarium; if it is \$100 for Dr. Wood, it should be \$100 each for Dr. Bopp and Dr. Chandler.

So far as our committee meeting with the conferees is concerned, I think it should be most informal, and that I should occupy the chair primarily to get the meeting started and to stop it for lunch and at 5:00 o'clock. Certainly Dr. Bopp should be the ad hoc chairman for the discussion.

Yours faithfully,



Allan Sproul

Miss Mildred Adams, Research Director,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

October 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

You will find enclosed with this note a sheet detailing the arrangements which are being made for the Committee's conference with Dr. Bopp and his confreres on Sunday, November 21st at Princeton. I hope these meet with your approval. Copies are being sent to all Committee members.

In discussing procedures with Mr. Woodward, two points arose on which we would appreciate word from you. The first is the matter of honoraria. Dr. Bopp tells me that he thinks a fee of \$100 might well be provided for Dr. Wood. If one expert is to be paid, wouldn't it seem better that the other two should also be paid? Mr. Woodward agrees that \$100 for each of the three would be in order. If this meets your approval, we will go ahead on that basis.

The other point concerns the handling of the meeting. Given a day-long conference of this kind, Mr. Woodward wondered if you, as chairman of the Committee, might prefer to run it informally, with an opening statement which would set the work of Dr. Bopp's group within the framework of the Committee's goal and put the carrying of the discussion on his shoulders as ad hoc chairman of the meeting. This is merely a suggestion, made in an attempt to ease the pressure of Sunday work on you and to anticipate the kind of an agenda which you would like set up; you may have other preferences.

Dr. Bopp hopes to have on hand a rough resume' of points arising in the 3-man Saturday conference which can serve as a basis for the discussion among Committee members. He is understandably eager to draw out all shades and angles of Committee opinion so that the work of his group may benefit from the wide experience represented in the Committee. Any draft he may present will probably be framed as intending to be a provocative rather than a limiting factor in the discussion.

Very sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Enc.

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

October 29, 1954

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Very sincerely yours,

Enc.

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

October 29, 1954

Messrs. Allan Sproul
W. Randolph Burgess
Robert D. Calkins
F. Cyril James
William McC. Martin, Jr.
Walter W. Stewart

In our recent wire telling you that Sunday, November 21st, proved to be the most generally possible date for the meeting with Dr. Bopp and his confreres Dr. Chandler and Dr. Wood, we promised that details would follow. This is the plan:

Date - Sunday, November 21, 1954.

Time - 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. including luncheon.

Place - Princeton Inn, Princeton, New Jersey. (Committee members preferring to arrive Saturday night and/or stay through Sunday night are invited to do so at Committee expense. A small number of single rooms with bath has been reserved and will be held for us until November 13th; if you would like one of these, or any other type of accommodation, Miss Adams will be glad to take care of it on word from you.)

Participants - We have had word that most of the Committee expect to attend and will take part in the conference with Messrs. Bopp, Chandler and Wood.

Conference arrangements - The meeting itself will be held in a private conference room at the Inn. Dr. Bopp expects to have for Committee members a rough resume of points which arose in the 3-man discussion the day before - this to serve as a springboard for questions, answers, opinions. Because he is very eager that no bit of the Committee's counsel shall be lost, he has asked us to have a stenotypist on hand to record the discussion. This technique obviates

the taking of notes with the accompanying dangers of misunderstanding. The stenotype record is solely for the guidance of Dr. Bopp and his group and its use will be limited to that purpose. It should not limit discussion in the slightest.

Costs - Believing this conference to be a vital step in our plans, the Committee will charge itself with all costs, including transportation, lodging when requested, meals, etc. Bills at the Princeton Inn will be rendered direct to Miss Adams. If you will hand Miss Adams a statement of your transportation costs, she will see that they are refunded to you.

Yours with high hopes for the 21st,

Donald B. Woodward

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

October 1, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

In accord with the outcome of the poll of the Committee Dr. Lane was invited to become a member of the Committee. The attached letter is his response.

Presumably the Executive Committee will consider the question of further action on the matter at an early meeting.

Very truly yours,

Donald B. Woodward

Enclosure

Mr. Allan Sproul, President
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York 45, New York

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

September 20, 1954

Miss Mildred Adams, Research Director,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

Answering your letter of September 15

1. I would like the question of Dr. Willits' membership on the committee put on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee.
2. If a meeting of the executive committee can most conveniently be held at Washington, we might try for Tuesday, the 19th of October at 1:00 o'clock (luncheon, Brookings?). If it can be held in New York, I could adjust to several dates during the last half of October.
3. I shall sound out Al Williams on the question of Karl Bopp and the history.

I was sorry not to be able to see Lester Chandler. I hope he is off to a good start on Benjamin Strong, Central Banker.

Yours faithfully,



Allan Sprout

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK**

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

September 10, 1954

Miss Mildred Adams, Research Director,
Committee on the History of the Federal
Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

You have evidently gotten off to a running start at the end of the vacation season. I find myself with a number of unanswered communications from your office.

First, there is progress report number 6. That raises two or three questions in my mind. One, I seem to recall that we were going to ask Joseph Willits to become a member of the committee. Is my memory faulty or has the idea been abandoned? Two, my calendar is getting pretty well cluttered and this suggests an inquiry as to when you might think it necessary or desirable to have a meeting of the Executive Committee or the full Committee, or both. Finally, would you like me to talk with Alfred Williams, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, as to whether there is any possibility of the bank releasing Karl Bopp to work on the history of the Federal Reserve System?

Second, I have your letter of September 8th about Lester Chandler's desire to get started on his study of "Benjamin Strong, Central Banker". I am sure that Mr. Roelse will be able to find desk space for him without invading your quarters and I will give the necessary instructions so that he may have access to the Strong collection and relevant papers in the bank's files. It will have to be understood, of course, that while we shall make these materials accessible to Professor Chandler for reading and study at the bank, we shall also have to reserve the right to review whatever public use he wishes to make of the information obtained from them. This is in no way an attempt to act the part of censor with respect to views, ideas or interpretations, but solely as a protection against the disclosure of confidential information concerning this bank, foreign central banks, the United States Treasury or others, which we would not wish to or would have no right to make public. I shall be glad to

Miss Adams 9/10/54

see Professor Chandler on Wednesday afternoon, September 15, at 3:30 o'clock if that is convenient for him.

Lastly, your letter of September 9 raises the question of whether another letter from me to the Presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks in other districts might not be helpful in promoting the work of the committee now that we have a substantial long term grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. I think it would be a good idea and I shall write them today, sending you a copy of the letter.

Yours faithfully,



Allan Sproul

Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

September 9, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Last February, when the pilot phase of this Committee's work was getting under way, you were kind enough to write to the presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks in the other districts describing its aims and asking their cooperation. Your letter (its date was February 18) was a wonderful aid and we have repeatedly had occasion to be very grateful to you for having sent it.

Now that the pilot phase is successfully completed and the full Rockefeller grant is at our disposal I wonder if you would think it appropriate to write the other presidents again in order that they may know that the "historical studies which could extend over several years" fore-shadowed by your previous letter are actually under way.

I make this suggestion with some hesitation. We could probably continue at the momentum which your first letter provided. At the same time I have a feeling that there is something about the solidity of a five year project in this field which may evoke a different order of cooperation from that given a short term exploration. The presidents whom I have seen have been very kind, but our requests have necessarily been superficial. We may be entering a phase in which we shall ask more and delve deeper than was required earlier. Particularly in view of Miss Burnett's study of regional archives which begins October 1, I think it would be very valuable to have the bank presidents themselves, as well as the research and library assistants, made aware of the new status of this Committee's work.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams
Research Director

Mr. Allan Sproul, President
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York 45, New York

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
33 Liberty Street, New York 45, New York
Telephone: REctor 2-5700, Extension 286

September 1, 1954

Dear Dr. Chandler:

This note is first to welcome you back from Europe, with the hope that your trip was as interesting and as full of fun as vacation trips ought to be. Reports of English weather have been dreary, but I hope the continent was kinder, and that the hurricane called Carol did not disturb your landing.

In the second place, the Committee is assuming that you will be preparing to get to work on the book early this month, and I am wondering if it would be possible for you to schedule an early conversation in this office. As you are our first author, we would like to know how our facilities can be of use to you, what information you would like from us, and in general to set up the kind of relationship which you would like established and the service, if any, which you would like us to render.

At the same time there are problems which ought to be cleared away, and on which we would appreciate your advice.

I shall be in Washington the rest of this week, and I go on vacation for three weeks beginning the 18th of September. Anyday between the 7th and the 17th could be arranged as long as I know a bit in advance which one is most convenient.

Very sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams
Research Director

Dr. Lester Chandler
Department of Economics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

August 26, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

It is good to know that you are back, and that the vacation period came up to specifications. We all missed you. When the pile of detail awaiting you diminishes, I shall hope to ask advice about one or two matters here. Before that, you will have before you a Progress Report on the summer's work.

Meanwhile, in view of your expressed interest in Dr. Wood you may like to know that while he does not show any desire to undertake the history he has been moved to do some thinking about it. A letter of August 18th contains the following paragraphs:

"I have thought a good deal about your project on the History of the Federal Reserve. It seems to me that the mass of material is so great that it would be well to break up the work into several studies before any attempt is made to have a definitive history -- and perhaps histories are never really definitive. In addition to the biographical studies, there might be the following types of books:

The Founding of the Federal Reserve (which might or might not be combined with the Operations during the First World War)

The Development of Federal Reserve Policy during the Nineteen Twenties (into the classic form in which B. Strong left it)

International Monetary Cooperation of the Nineteen Twenties

The Crisis of 1929 to 1933 and the Recovery

The Federal Reserve System and the Treasury, with Special Reference to the Period since 1933

Then there might also be a History of Federal Reserve Procedures and Policies for the period as a whole, which, though not attempting to cover all the source material, would get some of the cream, but in the main would be analytical. Of course Karl (Bopp) ought to do this; but if not, he ought to keep in very close touch with it."

If Dr. Wood is of the opinion that Karl Bopp ought to do this, perhaps a way might be worked out whereby he and Dr. Bopp could both be persuaded into it. Anyhow, I take his thinking for us as a good omen.

Most sincerely,

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street, N.Y. 17, N.Y.

Mildred Adams

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
33 Liberty Street, New York 45, New York
Telephone: REctor 2-5700, Extension 286

September 15, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Thanks so much for your letter of the 10th. To answer the points it raises, may I say first that the lack of an invitation to Dr. Willits stems from the result of the last request for Committee votes on proposed new Committee members. At that time, June 24th, Dr. Willits' name went on the list along with several others, but he only got three votes. There had been one or two hints that perhaps he might feel a certain hesitancy about coming onto a committee for which he had so recently approved funds.

I do not think this committee vote necessarily constitutes a hard and fast decision; rather, it seems to reflect the fact that a good idea lacked sufficient support. Would you like the question put on the next agenda for definite discussion?

In the matter of an Executive Committee meeting, I agree with you that one should be scheduled, and I'd suggest a convenient date between the middle and the end of October if one is left on your calendar. I would hope by that time that the search for a history writer, now threatening to become a series of slow and stately circles, could be brought out of its present doldrums.

In that connection, if you could talk to Mr. Alfred Williams about releasing Dr. Karl Bopp to take on the task, I'd send up heartfelt cheers. Dr. Bopp has been mentioned over and over again by a variety of people as the one man, in either the System or the academic world, who is best equipped to do the history. In addition to technical knowledge of Federal Reserve matters and working experience in central banking he has a sense of history and a feeling for both perspective and proportion. He writes with a better sense of style than does Elmer Wood. Except for Dr. John Williams I have found no one who seemed better equipped for the task. There has been no formal Committee agreement on Dr. Bopp, but if, knowing that, you could put the problem up to Mr. Williams as an urgent matter concerned with the good of the System it would be wonderful.

Professor Chandler will be in this office today. I'm sorry you are not able to see him, but I will make sure that he has your paragraph about the bank's "right to review whatever public use he wishes to make of information obtained" from papers in the bank's

files. Committee members have known from the beginning that this point would be raised as soon as our work reached the writing phase. Given understanding on both sides (and that is, of course, a vital condition) I see no reason why it should create difficulties. Professor Chandler must have met similar strictures before this; as for the other side, you would certainly appoint to the job of responsible reviewer the kind of person who is able and eager to make the important distinctions which your letter sets forth so carefully.

As for your letter to the other Presidents, it was exceedingly kind of you to fall in with my hesitant suggestion so quickly and so effectively. Your letter establishes exactly the kind of basis we need for the work ahead.

Gratefully yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allen Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

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Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

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Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams
Research Director

Mr. Allan Sproul, President
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York 45, New York

Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

September 6, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

We have just had word from Mr. Lester Chandler that he is back from Europe and making plans to start on his "Benjamin Strong, Central Banker". In view of the fact that much of the basic material he will need is in the Bank's files (not only the Strong collection as such, but also in the correspondence files) he will need both authorization to see papers and some arrangement for working space.

The matter of working space I have discussed with Mr. Roelse, who thinks that desk space might be provided in the file section or in the library. If neither is possible, we could make arrangements here when Mr. Harris re-plans the space hospitably granted this Committee so as to give me a private office. In any event, Mr. Roelse has this in hand.

As for authorization to examine both the Strong collection and other relevant papers in the Bank, this should, I assume be discussed with you personally.

Mr. Chandler is coming in on Wednesday afternoon, September 15, at 2:30 o'clock to go over certain details of aid which the Committee can offer. If your calendar would permit an appointment that afternoon it would greatly help to set him on his way.

Most sincerely,

Mildred Adams
Research Director

Mr. Allan Sproul, President
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
New York 45, New York

cc Mr. Roelse

August 26, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

It is good to know that you are back, and that the vacation period came up to specifications. We all missed you. When the pile of detail awaiting you diminishes, I shall hope to ask advice about one or two matters here. Before that, you will have before you a Progress Report on the summer's work.

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Most sincerely,

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street, N.Y. 17, N.Y.

Mildred Adams

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.
August 20, 1954

Dear Miss Adams:

I am now back from a fine vacation and struggling to get out from under the pile of things which awaited my return. In the pile I found your letter of August 3 and the enclosed text of Dr. Elmer Wood's paper delivered at the spring meeting of the Midwest Economic Association. I am glad to have this discussion of a matter which is close to my heart - and head - and, after reading it, I am more sorry than ever that Dr. Wood cannot be brought into our work.

Sincerely,



Allan Sproul

Miss Mildred Adams,
Research Director,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Special

August 26, 1954

Dear Don:

I am enclosing herewith a draft of the Progress Report of which we talked. You will note that I have included in that short career sketches of both Bopp and Shaw. If you do not want them handled this way, let me know and something else can be done about them.

I am also enclosing a letter from Mr. Sproul which was brought down yesterday. At the moment I think it would not be wise to push him further, but I think there will be an opportunity to bring the matter up again a little later. What he sketches is what I thought he had in mind, but underplayed.

I am sending this material up Special Delivery with the idea that it may provide train reading for you. A copy also goes to your office, but I assume they will cease on your return and pile you deep with work. I shall be in the office on Tuesday, and shall probably go to Washington for Thursday and Friday.

Best as always,

Mildred Adams

Enc.

Mr. Donald B. Woodward
Squirrel Inn
Squirrel Island, Maine

cc. Mr. Donald B. Woodward
Vick Chemical Company
122 East 42nd Street
New York City 17, N. Y.

C O P Y

ALLAN SPROUL
THIRTY THREE LIBERTY STREET
NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

August 25, 1954

Mr. Donald B. Woodward, Secretary,
Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Mr. Woodward:

Your letter of August 20 reminds me that Miss Adams is not one to let grass grow under her feet. Our casual talk about my becoming an author contemplated no more than the assembling of some of my speeches and testimony before Congressional committees with introductory notes and comments. Nevertheless, your opinion that I could make a valuable contribution to the literature on central banking is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Allan Sproul

August 3, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

On a recent visit to the West I made a side trip to see Dr. Elmer Wood, whom you had suggested as a possible person to write the history. He is not available, and on this I'll send you a full report later. Meanwhile I took occasion to get from him the full text of the controversial paper he delivered at the spring meeting of the Midwest Economic Association. Thinking you might like to read it, I gained his permission to have it copied. He was of course very pleased to know that it had attracted attention here. I am sending carbons to Mr. Roelse, Dr. Williams and Dr. Bopp.

I hope your vacation was of the best.

Most sincerely,

Mildred Adams

Enc.

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Allen Sproul, President
Federal Reserve Bank
33 Liberty Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Miss Adams has just told me that you are considering a volume *of your own*
~~on~~ Central Banking. I hasten to express the utmost delight and *papers on*
the strongest possible hopes that such a work will materialize. *various*
If the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System can *pieces of*
be credited with having played any part in bringing a volume from
you it will by that fact alone more than justify its existence.

Sincerely yours,

DBW:lw

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

June 30, 1954.

Miss Mildred Adams,
Research Director, Committee on the
History of the Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

You move too rapidly for me! My only recollection of our talk about a volume of papers of mine is the recollection of an idea tossed into the air without a time tag on it. I prefer to let it rest for the moment.

I am glad that Cyril James has accepted membership in the Committee. I hope that he will be able to give some time and attention to it.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Allan Sproul

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.
June 28, 1954

Miss Mildred Adams,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

Confirming our conversation on Friday, I have gone over the list of suggested names of additional committee members which you sent to me under cover of your Progress Report No. 5, dated June 24th.

I would put my No. 1 opposite the name of Joseph H. Willits and my No. 2 opposite the name of Dr. Frederic C. Lane, the latter on the grounds of our desire to have an historian on the committee. My No. 3 would be Professor Elmer Wood. This does not mean that I have anything against the others listed. Two of them at least, Professor Reed and Professor Wright, might be possibilities as writers of essays or books within our field.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Sprul

Second List of Names
Suggested as Additional Committee Members

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

2 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 Economic Growth - essays in honor of J. H. Williams.

July 1, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

To be told that one moves too fast for Allan Sproul, with his well-known reputation for quick action, is the kind of high praise I never expected to win!

However, as I told Miss Regan, I truly hadn't the least idea of trying to rush you. The idea of a possible volume of papers from you was so good that I couldn't bear to let it drop even for the summer.

Apologies and high hopes,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

June 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Ever since we talked on Friday I've been thinking about the happy possibility of a volume of papers from you as part of this project. We spoke then of getting at it in October, but I have been wondering if there aren't preliminaries which could be started during the summer while you are on vacation and some staff member might have a bit of extra time.

Several questions remain to be discussed - who would be chosen to edit such a book (provided you think an outside editor is desirable), which idea or ideas would you want as its central core and so on. But before coming to those and allied problems I would think there might be a first rough and rather wholesale gathering together of possible material, all to be read, and from which choices might be made.

When you return from California, and I come out from immersion in forty years of annual reports, one or both of us may be wanting to lay hands on a pile of Sproul material quickly. It is toward that end that I make the above tentative suggestion for a job of collecting to be done in the summer's quiet.

May I also thank you for your letter of June 23th about Committee members. A letter from Cyril James has just come in, accepting invitation to membership and saying "As you know central banking and monetary history were, in the days when I had reasonable academic share of leisure, two of the hobbies closest to my heart and, although leisure is a pretty scarce commodity nowadays, I should like to contribute all that I can to the growth of this project".

This leaves two new members still to be added. Other Committee members have not yet responded.

Most sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

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
	<u>\$ 53,325</u>

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 (copy inclosed). 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 Merriner 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.

Mildred Adams

Enc.

Second List of Names
Suggested as Additional Committee Members

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

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C O P Y

June 9, 1954

Supplementary Statement Relative to a Proposed Study -
"Benjamin Strong--Central Banker."

The purpose of this note is to provide a somewhat clearer description of the scope, comprehensiveness, and completeness of the proposed study.

My purpose will be to provide as complete a study as possible of Benjamin Strong in relationship to the evolution of Federal Reserve structures and policies and to economic policies in general. To do this, I shall first study Benjamin Strong's life before he assumed the leadership of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. I shall study his family backgrounds, his training and experience, his position in the banking community, and his ideas as they evolved in this period. In short, I shall do my best to find out what type of person he was and what kinds of ideas and predispositions he had as he entered the System.

From that point on, I shall study carefully the interactions of the man and his experience, trying to assess his influence on course of events and the influence of events on him and his thinking. This would include both domestic and international aspects of his experience, for I am confident that both are important and inseparable. In some cases, "domestic" policies were influenced by international considerations, and after World War I--if not before--our so-called "domestic" policies inevitably had important effects on other countries. Moreover, it is my

impression, still without adequate documentation, that Mr. Strong also played an important role in conference with foreign central bankers and other officials.

In short, my objective is to provide as close to a definitive study of the subject as the available materials will permit, and the study would include Mr. Strong's role in both domestic and international developments.

Lester Chandler

June 23, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

I understand from Mr. Bilby and Mr. Marcus Harris that you have kindly asked them to undertake certain arrangements as to staff and space for the work of this Committee over the five-year stretch which lies ahead. Having enjoyed the Bank's abundant hospitality and many kindnesses since January, I have complete faith in their planning. But, there are one or two details which I would like to discuss with you before such plans are crystallized. These include the continuing availability of Miss McKinstry which I am sorry to find is in question, the arrangement for part-time services of Miss Burnett, the space in which Committee work is to proceed, the possible role of Professor Wood.

In anticipation of a conference with you I am enclosing two items you may want to look at - a copy of the estimated budget as submitted to the Rockefeller Foundation June 15th, and a copy of a letter from Professor Lester Chandler which contains a comment on Professor Elmer Wood as a possible writer of the history. We have also asked information about Professor Wood from Dr. Karl Bopp.

May I tell you how pleased everyone is that you find it possible to sit on the Executive Committee. There have been moments when I felt that our efforts to spare you needless questions were worse than useless in that they failed to provide you with data that might have interested you, and robbed us of the value of your judgements. We'll still try not to knock on your door too often.

Cordially yours,

Mildred Adams

Enc.

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

June 17, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Mr. Woodward tells me he has talked with you by telephone since your letter of June 10th came in, and I take it that he discussed with you some of the points you raise.

Thanks so much for your suggestion of Professor Elmer Wood. Several people have mentioned him with approval, and at the moment he seems to be favored both as a Committee member and as a possible writer of the history. I am trying to get further information about him which may help the Committee to decide which role he could more usefully be invited to accept.

We are also getting more information about Professor Lane whom you heard recently at Columbia, where he discussed Simon Kuznet's paper, "Toward a Theory of Economic Growth". As for other names, a list is in preparation which we hope to circulate in the near future.

Most sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, N. Y.

ALLAN SPROUL
THIRTY THREE LIBERTY STREET
NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

June 10, 1954

Miss Mildred Adams,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

I have been thinking about the names of possible committee members listed in your letter of June 3 and not much has resulted. Among the economists I know only Professor Schultz, and I don't think this is his field. President James I know by reputation, of course, but I had understood that he might have some sort of a project in mind in this area. I have met Professor Lane, who is listed as one of two historians, but if he is the man I think he is his main interest would seem to be in Italy of the middle ages. I don't know how political scientists got into the picture, and I don't know either of the two men named.

I have one suggestion, an economist - Professor Elmer Wood of the University of Missouri, who is, I understand, a real student of the history of central banking without having any central banking connections.

Before checking first choices, I would like to see quite a few more names.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allan Sproul", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

June 3, 1954

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

You will remember that at the meeting on May 11th it was decided that if the Committee's request for funds was granted the scope of this Committee should be enlarged by adding perhaps three members from other fields than banking. History, political science and economics were specifically mentioned. It was also decided that a small executive committee should be named to which one of the new members should be appointed to serve with Mr. Burgess and Mr. Woodward.

The following list of possible additions to the Committee came from various sources. If, within each group, you would check your first choice we may be able to reach a quick consensus of Committee opinion. If you have other preferences please add them to this list so that we may circulate them on a second round.

Mildred Adams

ECONOMISTS

Cyril James, President of McGill University, Economist and Historian.

Theodore Schultz, Professor of Economics and head of the Economics Department, University of Chicago.

John Lintner, Associate Professor of Finance, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

HISTORIANS

Thomas C. Cochran, Professor of History at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania.

Frederick C. Lane, Professor of History at Johns Hopkins.

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS

Stephen K. Bailey, Professor of Public Affairs and New Director of the Graduate program of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Wallace S. Sayre, Professor of Government and Director of the Graduate program in Public Administration at City College, New York.

May 28, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Thank you for your letter of May 26th with its comment on the Chandler and Kincaid proposals. Donald Woodward, who is the only other person from whom I have heard as yet, feels as you do that the cost of the latter project is too high. I am awaiting word from the other members before writing to Dr. Kincaid.

Thanks also for the suggestion of Brooke Willis. We seem to be collecting various ideas for this post and will certainly add Mr. Willis' name.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

May 26, 1954.

Miss Mildred Adams,
Research Director,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

I am generally favorable to the proposed grant to Professor Chandler to assist him in preparing a book on "Benjamin Strong - Central Banker", which is one of the subjects of your memorandum of May 24th, and its enclosures, addressed to the Members of the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System. The amount of the grant - \$17,000 - and the terms seem to be in line with our previous thinking. Others on the Committee are much better informed on these matters than I am, however, and I would defer to their judgment on the details of the arrangement.

On the Kincaid proposal, I have already expressed myself as favorable to the undertaking, but I think the cost may have been boosted beyond our expectations. I suspect that the examination of the Glass papers will turn up more material that is of interest to the University of Virginia, or others, than material in which our Committee will be interested. It also seems to me that the graduate students will be doing most of the work, and that Dr. Kincaid's fee for supervision and advice may be high. I would be happier if it were \$1200 or \$1500 instead of \$2400.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Sproul,
President.

p.s. One of my associates has come up with a suggestion for your assistant and possible successor which sounds good to me. It is Brooke Willis, now of the faculty of Columbia and the staff of the Chase National Bank. If an arrangement could be worked out which would enable him to continue on the faculty of Columbia on a part-time basis, he might well be receptive.

A.S.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

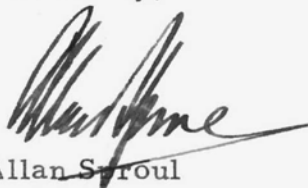
NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

May 20, 1954

Dear Miss Adams:

I have talked with Mr. Roelse about the suggestion made in your letter of May 17 concerning the possible association of Miss Marguerite Burnett with the work of the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System. Mr. Roelse will be talking with you about it, and then with Miss Burnett, to see if something can be worked out which would be satisfactory to all of us.

Yours faithfully,



Allan Stroul

Miss Mildred Adams,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

May 17, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Following the suggestion which Mr. Burgess made at the meeting last Tuesday, I talked with Miss Marguerite Burnett today about her plans. She says she is due to retire in July, and is both anticipating the freedom and dreading the feeling of things left undone here. She wants to spend the summer resting, and is then hoping to be allowed to come back and clear out some overgrown files which she has not been able to get at because of the constant press of daily work. She thinks these may hold archival material which would be of importance to us.

I talked with Miss Burnett about a possible central index of archival material in the regional banks (an idea suggested by some phrases of yours in a comment on the first stage of our main proposal), and she said with great enthusiasm that she would like to work on that.

Miss Burnett seems not eager to work full time after she retires, and for this reason as well as because we are contemplating a five-year job I think my administrative assistant should be a younger person. But if some way could be worked out, whereby she could combine the **combing** of archival materials from her own files with working on this central index of regional material for us, it might be a good plan with real values on all sides.

Very sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

Committee to Study the History of the Federal Reserve System

Progress Report

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.

Mildred Adams,
Research Director.

May 3, 1954

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

Since submission of our application to the Rockefeller Foundation I have talked twice with Dr. Willits to clarify a few of the points made in it. He feels that the Committee's proposal was well prepared, and - while nothing is certain until the meeting on May 20 - the application thus far appears to be on the right track.

In view of the possibility that in late May we will receive word that funds are available and work may proceed, I suggest that the Committee might well begin to consider certain elements in our future procedure. Three items are of especial importance, a fourth one calls for preliminary discussion. If the Committee could meet and reach a consensus of opinion on these before mid-May their conclusions might provide supplemental information for Dr. Willits in case he should be questioned on them.

The three points presently important are:

1. Finding a major staff man (or woman)
2. Clarifying the relationship which is to exist between Brookings and the Committee.
3. Assuring breadth of viewpoint on major subjects of inquiry.

The fourth point concerns the question of aiding Dr. Kinkaid and a graduate student to organize the Carter Glass papers, and encouraging Lester Chandler to embark on a study of "Ben Strong, Central Banker". Obviously no action can be taken until the grant comes through, but in planning ahead it would be helpful to know whether the Committee is agreed that these are projects which might be approved and supported.

These three items, and a possible consideration of the fourth, would form the agenda for a meeting. Could the Committee meet on Thursday, May 13 in Washington, either for lunch at 1:00 P.M. or at 2:30 P.M.? I think the former would be desirable if possible. In advance of the meeting two memoranda will be circulated for Committee consideration - the first by the Secretary covering points 1 and 3, with further light on point 4; and the second by Dr. Galkins on Brookings - point 2.

Could you let me know at your early convenience?

Very sincerely yours,

Donald B. Woodward, Secretary

cc: Miss Adams (3) + 1 copy to Miss Adams % Brookings
DEW

DEW:lw

May 10, 1954

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

Herewith the agenda for the luncheon meeting of this Committee on Tuesday, May 11th, at 1:00 P. M. in the private dining room (the West Alcove) at Brookings Institution, 722 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. There is also enclosed the promised memorandum from Mr. Woodward, giving background material for discussion on points 1, 3, and 4. You will already have received a memorandum by Dr. Calkins on point 3.

Mildred Adams,
Research Director

MA:km
encs.

Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

Agenda for Luncheon Meeting at the

Brookings Institution, Washington, May 11, 1954

1. Finding a major staff man (or woman) to act as administrative assistant to Miss Adams, and later as project director. (See Secretary's memo)

Committee preference is asked as to type to be sought; suggestions are needed as to names *within those types:*

- (a) Retired expert who ^{would like to} ~~can~~ be drafted back.
- (b) Active person of proven ability who can be attracted from bank or college by value of experience for future post.
- (c) Young and promising person with proper academic background and a few years experience in banking, teaching or journalism,

2. Clarifying the relationship which is to exist between Brookings and the Committee.

Committee decision is asked on basis of a memo circulated to members by Dr. Robert Calkins. Choices presented are:

- (a) Plan I - Committee to assume direct responsibility for project and expenditure of grant, with Brookings acting only as fiscal agent.
- (b) Plan II - Committee and Brookings to assume joint responsibility for project and expenditures.
- (c) Plan III - Brookings to assume responsibility for project and the administration of funds in agreement with the Committee; latter taking on advisory capacity only.

3. Assuring breadth of viewpoint on major subjects of inquiry. (See Secretary's memo).

Committee preference is asked on two proposed methods:

- (a) Asking individual statements on puzzling problems.
- (b) Arranging an ad hoc conference in October with fifteen or twenty persons expert in banking, history and political science. Suggestions are asked as to time, place, consultants to be invited.

4. *Possible projects - Dr. Kinkaid and Lester Chandler*
~~Consideration of the suggested projects.~~ (See Secretary's memo).

Provisional approval is asked on the following:

- (a) Proposal of Dr. Elbert Kinkaid to spend the summer classifying and indexing the Carter Glass papers with the aid of a graduate student whom he will train; name of student and proposed cost to follow.
- (b) Proposal of Dr. Lester Chandler to embark in February 1955 on a study of "Ben Strong, Central Banker". Time and cost budgets to follow.

Secretary's Memorandum on Points 1, 3 and 4 of Agenda

for

Committee Meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 1954

1. Finding a major staff man, (or woman). Our proposal stated (Page 19) "the Committee's aim is to find a well equipped and exceptionally able Research Assistant, with the necessary academic training in monetary matters and some experience in administration who has the capacity to play a major role in the project. Such a person would, after a year or so as administrative assistant, take charge and carry forward. Miss Adams would then be in a unique position to embark upon a major writing part of the project". This individual will be a highly significant factor in the work of the Committee. Therefore he (or she) will need to be most carefully chosen.

I should think there are several possible avenues of approach. One would be to seek an individual sufficiently close to retirement and with sufficient qualifications as to be interested in moving to this job in the near future. Such a person might be George B. Roberts of the National City Bank, Bray Hammond, formerly of the Board staff and said to be returning this summer from Italy (where he has been working on a history of the Second Bank of the United States) or J. H. Riddle recently retired from the Bankers Trust Company after some time at the Federal Reserve Board.

Another approach would be to seek a presently established person who would want to do the job and might be able to get a leave of absence, or who might see this as a big enough opportunity to wish to take it and hope to find another post at its termination. (If there were the possibility of an appointment at Brookings following experience with this project, this might be a factor. It would also seem possible that a bank president might

consider this as an exceptional training opportunity for an able staff member who would, at the end of the period, go back to the bank.) Ralph Young of the Reserve Board staff has excellent qualifications and so I should think does Donald Thompson of the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank, R. J. Saulnier of Columbia, Lester Chandler of Princeton, or Burton Hallowell of Connecticut Wesleyan - to name a few. Others in this category, who might be interested in getting leave from their present post if salary were scaled to their present level and their future were assured include: Karl R. Bopp of Philadelphia, H. S. Ellis of the University of California, Elmer Wood of the University of Missouri, Harold L. Reed of Cornell.

A third approach would be to seek an able young person who has already demonstrated marked capacity and who might hope to make this post the springboard for major career. Such a person, "with the necessary academic training in monetary matters and some experience in administration... who would, after a year or so as an administrative assistant, take charge and carry forward" might be sought in the banking, the academic or the writing world. A list (banking and/or academic) compiled by Miss McKinstry from her experience with Dr. John Williams includes:

Paul W. McCracken, former Director of Research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, now at the University of Michigan.

John Lintner, Lawrence E. Thompson or Hugh Aitken of the Harvard Business School.

Victor Longstreet formerly of the Federal Reserve Board.

Harry G. Johnson of Cambridge University and the University of Toronto.

James W. Ford of Vanderbilt University.

Guy Freutel of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Wm. C. Bradford of Northwestern University.

Warren L. Smith of the University of Virginia.

Thomas Storrs of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Donald C. Miller of the Federal Reserve Board.

James Tobin of Yale University.

E. Victor Morgan of Cambridge University, author of Studies in British Financial Policy, 1914-25 and of a much praised essay on Central Banking.

The Committee will doubtless have other suggestions. Thus far no inquiries have been made in the field of Journalism. Your preferences on these possibilities and your suggestion of names would be most helpful.

2. Relationship with Brookings - see memorandum circulated by Dr. Calkins -
3. Assuring breadth of viewpoint on major subjects of inquiry -

One of the first problems for the research director, in passing from the exploratory phase to the main project, will be that of knowing, in so wide a field, which subjects and which points of discussion are in need of the added light that further research may bring. What do the experts want to know? What most puzzles the historians? What is it about the System that informed men have never really understood? To obtain focus on key points is of the first importance. It should be the kind of focus that comes from coordinating various points of view - from men in and out of Board and Banks, from teachers and students of finance and business, from economic historians and political scientists.

Two methods of securing this wide point of view suggest themselves - both of them include the use of thoughtful students of banking, history and political science in a consultative capacity:

First, the Committee might care to ask a dozen or so persons, particularly interested and qualified, for a thoughtful statement on the questions concerning the history, development and functioning of the Federal Reserve System

which seem to them most important and most puzzling. This method of enriching the research content of a project has been tried elsewhere with success; it seems to prove the more successful when an honorarium of \$100 or \$200 for thoughtful suggestions is offered with the request.

The second suggestion is the conference method, with an ad hoc group chosen from students and practitioners of banking, political scientists such as Dr. V. O. Key of Harvard or Arthur McMahon of Columbia, historians such as Fred Lane of Johns Hopkins or Arthur Cole of Harvard. Such a group could well include Dr. John Williams, Dr. Charles C. Abbott, new Dean of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia, F. Cyril James of McGill, Jacob Viner of Princeton, F. W. Fetter of Northwestern and others that will come to mind. A meeting of fifteen or twenty men in early October, perhaps at Arden House or in New York, conferring on the basis of a carefully prepared agenda, should help greatly to enrich the research content of this project.

4. Possible projects - Dr. Kinkaid and Lester Chandler.

As the research director has reported, one of the collections important to this project, the Carter Glass papers, is at the University of Virginia and a distinguished scholar is eager to work on them. Dr. Elbert Kinkaid, for years consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and now retiring as Associate Director of the School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, can spend the summer sorting, classifying and indexing them. He would want a graduate student working with him, whom he would train.

Dr. Kinkaid first proposed to spend a year or two in an intensive study of the papers, but he now expects to go to the University of Arizona for the fall term. This shorter survey project has definite advantages. It would provide us with a catalogue of the papers, and if Dr. Kinkaid's graduate

student proves competent, it may lay the basis for a later study of major importance.

The name of the chosen graduate student, and the proposed cost of the summary work, will be furnished us in a week or so. No commitment has been made, or can be made until the major project is approved by the Rockefeller Foundation, but the Secretary would like to know if the Committee provisionally approves this suggestion so that we may act quickly when the Foundation decision is announced.

The desire of Lester Chandler to embark on a study of "Ben Strong, Central Banker" has also been reported to the Committee. Mr. Chandler expects to free himself from teaching in the spring term which begins in February 1955. He would like to spend the following six months in preliminary study of material, and planning of the book; once that research and creative phase is finished, he would expect to write while teaching in 1955-56.

This project also is provisional - no budget has been submitted either of money or time. But Professor Chandler goes to Europe in June, and would like to know before he leaves whether or not the Committee would think favorable of this idea if its own funds for the longer term are granted. A more definite commitment could, of course, be made only after the submission of a more detailed plan of work and costs. Here, too, provisional approval or disapproval is asked because of the time element.

April 28, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Thanks so much for the suggestion about Professor Agger. It is a new name, and I will try to reach him in the near future. As for Marquis James's book about the Giannini empire, I will certainly read it--I wish I might also read your opinion of it.

You know, of course, that Mr. John U. Calkins, Sr. of San Francisco died April 23rd. I had looked forward to seeing him this summer (always assuming that the Rockefeller grant comes through), and it is a blow to have missed out on what I have been told was a remarkable man with a remarkable memory. I have written his son to suggest that we would be interested in his father's papers, and will follow it up later with a more precise statement of that interest.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allan Sproul
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

MA:km

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE April 23, 1954TO Miss Mildred Adams

SUBJECT: _____

FROM Allan Sproul

I don't remember whether or not you have Professor Eugene Agger, Professor Emeritus of Money and Banking at Rutgers University, on your list of those to be interviewed. He had a hand in setting up the original Division of Research and Statistics at the Federal Reserve Board. He is still vigorous in mind and body and might have some worthwhile recollections.

AS:ES

Assume you have seen or will see the recent "biography" of the Bank of America by Theobald Childs.

AS

April 15, 1954.

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Two incidents occurred in the work of this Committee last week, aside from the Washington meeting, which you may want to know about.

The papers of Dr. Adolph Miller, about which I wrote you earlier, were turned over to me by Mrs. Miller's sister, Mrs. Wesley Mitchell. As I was about to load them into a cab Mrs. Mitchell said she had just had word that the Regents of the University of California had met and resolved that the papers should be "delivered to the Federal Reserve System". So I gave her a receipt indicating that this would be done, and took them to Brookings for sorting and classifying first. Obviously the power of your name with the Regents is great.

Mr. Russell Leffingwell has just sent us a specially bound volume of his speeches and papers dating from 1920 to 1951--this in answer to requests for information as to where his papers are.

The Washington meeting was discursive, and generous with suggestions. Since then, and after consultation with Dr. Willits at the Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Woodward and I have reframed the proposal for the main project so that it comes closer to the lines you suggested, and includes an increased amount of detail which Dr. Willits thought would be essential. Instead of trying to suggest a writer of the eventual history we are asking for \$310,000 for the study project as a whole, and are naming Mr. Burgess as the person who will head the study project after he leaves the Treasury. This allows us to omit specific proposals about which there was doubt, and gives us more time for continuing the work which is yielding such good results.

A copy of the proposal is enclosed. With it will go a copy of a report on the pilot project, the substance of which you have seen in Progress Reports.

Time is pressing us so closely that I am forced to ask if you could look at the proposal over the weekend, and, if possible, let us have your approval by Monday. We are asked to get proposal and report to Dr. Willits as early in the week as we can.

Very sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams,
Research Director.

Mr. Allan Sproul, President,
Federal Reserve Bank of New York,
New York 45, New York.

March 29, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of the problem presented in the skeleton list of suggested works. I will go ahead on the time schedule you propose, and when Mr. Woodward returns we will try to find a date after the 9th which is possible for both of you.

Meanwhile may I say that your comments about going too fast are more than welcome. I've been feeling rather like an idiot runner trying to cover a mile in the time allotted for a quarter.

Gratefully yours,

Mildred Adams

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK**

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

March 29, 1954

Miss Mildred Adams, Research Director,
Committee on the History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Miss Adams:

I have tried to give some consecutive study and thought to the proposal of a "main project" of the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System, which you say in your letter of March 26th must be in the hands of Dr. Willits of the Rockefeller Foundation by April 18th.


My general impression is that we are trying to go too far too fast in meeting this deadline. The original proposal, as I recall it, was for a six months pilot study, after which it would be determined what further could and should be done. Dr. Willits evidently felt, however, that he needed something beyond the pilot study to put up to his Trustees, and his own impending retirement suggested shortening the time schedule. Now, as I look over what has already been done, impressive as it is, and see what remains to be done, I think we may well be deceiving ourselves and the Foundation if we try to lay out a future program in too much detail on what is still an inadequate base.

It seems to me, therefore, that the next stage of our work should be a further development of what you have already so successfully begun. That includes systematizing records of material in the files of the Board of Governors and the Federal Reserve Banks, preparation of a master file on papers and collections, already deposited in libraries or institutions, and evaluating and making provision for the preservation and use of other records and papers that have been or may be discovered. This, as you know, would also involve not just a listing of material, but would be an attempt to classify all such material and to see that materials arising currently and in the future are similarly classified, so as to assure comparability. Along with this work there could develop the publication of a few volumes of papers. The process of discovering new materials, interviewing more people, and classifying materials would probably provide a guide as to the papers to be used.

This is largely what you have outlined under A.I. We would still have in mind A.II. and B. if the Foundation wants to know where all this work is likely to lead, but we would not be committed in too much detail to an ambitious program of organized research. Such a program could well founder because of lack of competent scholars willing and able to carry it forward on so many fronts. As to C., I should think it might be culled out, so far as the Foundation is concerned, after the initial or preparatory work under A.I. has been completed.

I agree that a meeting of the Committee would be desirable before submission of whatever proposal we want to send to Dr. Willits, but I also am afraid that it would be difficult to bring all of the group together at one time, either in Washington or New York. Unfortunately, the divided meeting you suggest finds me in Washington on April 5th, for an all-day meeting, and in New York all the rest of that week. Perhaps Mr. Woodward could meet with the Washington people at some mutually convenient time, letting them know my views as set forth in this letter, and then you and he and I could meet here to discuss the final proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Allan Sproul

March 26, 1954

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Thus far, we have carried on communication with this Committee by means of memoranda, but I wonder if we ought now to schedule a meeting in advance of April 18th, when the formal proposal for funds for the second phase must be in Dr. Willits's hands.

My present plan is that when comments on the skeleton list (sent you earlier this week) come back, I will coordinate them and then prepare the more formal document. That should be in Committee hands by April 5th, which leaves barely two weeks for consideration and re-writing. If the Committee could meet, consider and discuss points jointly, rather than go through a repeated process of re-writing and re-submission, it might save time.

The Committee's Secretary, Donald Woodward, is out of town but will be back on April 4th. He wanted me to ask whether you thought a dinner meeting in Washington on April 9, 10, or 12 might be advisable. Meanwhile I took the liberty of canvassing members for possible dates when I was in Washington this week. The 9th is not possible for Mr. Burgess or Mr. Calkins, but Mr. Burgess expects to be in New York on April 5th.

If you agree that a dinner meeting is advisable, and if your calendar makes the 5th a possibility, what would you think of solving the dilemma by our calling two meetings -- one here in New York on April 5th, to be attended by yourself Mr. Burgess, Mr. Woodward, and perhaps Mr. Calkins; and the other in Washington on the 9th, to be attended by Mr. Riefler, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Woodward? There would then remain merely the task of coordinating the opinions of the two meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

MA:km

MEMORANDUM

March 22, 1954

To: Mr. Allan Sproul

From: Mildred Adams

You may have read in a recent progress report that a small collection of papers left by Dr. Adolph Miller and found in an unused storage closet in the Miller house was headed our way for sorting out what might be of value to this project. Now Mrs. Wesley Mitchell, acting as agent for Mrs. Miller (her sister) tells me that the entire Miller estate has been left to the University of California. She sees no reason why they should want these papers; she is disposed toward turning them over to us, but her attorney has quite properly wired for clearance on them. Thus far, she has had no luck in getting a reply of any sort.

I would not be bothering you about so small a matter, were it not for the personalities involved. There may be nothing of any value in the collection. But we do want to see it. And the President of the University of California is the brother of the Chairman of this Committee.

We are still hoping that permission will come through the regular channels. If it does not, we may have to appeal for a word from you.

Will be ready if needed.
MA

MEMORANDUM

March 22, 1954

To: Mr. Allan Sproul

From: Mildred Adams

You may have read in a recent progress report that a small collection of papers left by Dr. Adolph Miller and found in an unused storage closet in the Miller house was headed our way for sorting out what might be of value to this project. Now Mrs. Wesley Mitchell, acting as agent for Mrs. Miller (her sister) tells me that the entire Miller estate has been left to the University of California. She sees no reason why they should want these papers; she is disposed toward turning them over to us, but her attorney has quite properly wired for clearance on them. Thus far, she has had no luck in getting a reply of any sort.

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We are still hoping that permission will come through the regular channels. If it does not, we may have to appeal for a word from you.

MA:km

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Progress Report

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 five 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 Brooke 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

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 ^{Re}uschlaub; in Washington, Miss Sutherland, Miss Poeppel; Dr. Powell and Miss Katherine Brand of Recent Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress-

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

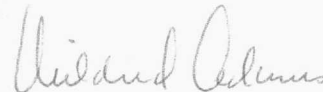
The papers of Ogden Mills (in 25 boxes) are in his stepson's garage at Brookville, Long Island, and will be made available.

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

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. Willitts' 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 Dr. Willitts' 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.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

Similar letter to all other Presidents

February 18, 1954

Mr. Malcolm H. Bryan, President
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Atlanta 3, Georgia

Dear Malcolm:

As an outgrowth of conversations between interested parties, there has recently been established a Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System. I was asked to serve as Chairman, and the following have agreed to serve as members of the Committee: W. Randolph Burgess, Deputy to the Secretary of the Treasury; William McC. Martin, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Walter W. Stewart of the Council of Economic Advisers; Robert D. Calkins, President of the Brookings Institution; and Donald B. Woodward, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Vick Chemical Corporation, Secretary.

With the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, a pilot project has been organized to interview people who have had something to do with the development of the Federal Reserve System, and locate and catalogue information and material which might form the basis for later studies and publications with respect to the Federal Reserve System. Miss Mildred Adams has been appointed Research Director of this pilot project, with an office in this Bank.

Miss Adams is already engaged in this work, and I think it is likely that, as the work proceeds, she will want to communicate with you concerning things you may have stored in your head or materials you may have in your files. The Committee will appreciate it if you will respond to such requests by giving her such information as you think may be useful in the project. If the pilot project is successful, we believe that it may lay the foundation for historical studies, which could extend over several years, and which will be of interest to the Federal Reserve System, to economists, and others. The present phase, however, is largely exploratory.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

ALLAN SPROUL
Allan Sproul,
President.

January 18, 1954

MATTERS REQUIRING COMMITTEE OPINION

1. Does the proposed and enclosed letterhead meet your approval?
How about mention of Rockefeller grant?
2. We are proposing to ask interviews immediately from such people as are listed below. Would you please indicate those whom you think of first importance and add any others who come to mind?

Event Case

- Bell, Daniel W.
- Bopp, Karl R.
- Bryan, Malcolm
- Burgess, W. Randolph
- Carpenter, S. H.
- ✓ Case, J. Herbert
- Crane, Jay E.
- Crocker, Stuart M.
- Davis, Chester
- Eccles, Marfiner
- Eddy, Walter W.
- Fleming, Robert V.
- Gidney, Ray
- ~~Hending, W. E. G.~~
- ✓ Harrison, George L.
- Hawes, Henry M.
- Kinkaid, E. A.
- ✓ Leffingwell, R. C.
- Logan, Walter
- McCabe, Thomas B.
- ✓ McIntosh, J. W.

- ✓ Meyer, Eugene
- ✓ Morgan, Shepard
- ✓ Parry, Carl E.
- Peyton, John N.
- Riddle, Jack
- Riefler, Winfield W.
- Roberts, George B.
- Roelse, H. V.
- Round, Leslie
- ~~Saylor, Louis~~ *not physically able*
- ✓ Stewart, Walter W.
- Strong, Jr., Benjamin
- Temple, Alan
- Thomas, John J.
- Thomas, Woodlief
- Thompson, Donald
- Thurston, Elliott
- Viner, Jacob
- Wheeler, Oliver P.
- ✓ Williams, John H.
- Woolley, Clarence M. - ?

- Wyatt, Walter
- ✓ Young, Owen D.
- ✓ Young, Roy

Mildred Adams
Research Director

Those checked might be first on grounds of age etc?

Please initial and return
 Committee on History of the Federal Reserve System
 Room 807
 33 Liberty Street
 New York 45, New York

January 18, 1954

Mr. Allan Sproul
President
Federal Reserve Bank of New York
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Sproul:

Miss Adams tells me today that the Bank has set up generous quarters, provided her with an excellent research secretary, and is giving her cordial cooperation all along the line. This is wonderful, and she is very appreciative.

Now that we have the Rockefeller grant in hand with Brookings in a disbursing and consultative capacity, there would seem to be good reason to ask Dr. Robert Calkins, President of that institution, to join our Committee. Unless you have some objection, I would recommend that this be done. Will you please let me know how you feel about it?

Sincerely yours,

Donald B. Woodward
Secretary
COMMITTEE ON HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

DEW:MA/km

PROPOSAL

FOR AN EXPLORATORY PROJECT LOOKING TOWARD
THE COLLECTION, APPRAISAL, EDITING AND USE
OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS ON THE FEDERAL
RESERVE SYSTEM

SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Allan Sproul, Chairman
Donald Woodward, Secretary

PROPOSAL

FOR AN EXPLORATORY PROJECT LOOKING TOWARD THE COLLECTION, APPRAISAL, EDITING AND USE OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS ON THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

The rapid changes which are now characteristic of the American economy make it difficult for useable records, much less readable history, to keep up with them. Yet it is more than ever vital that not only should results be known and understood, but that the path by which those results were reached be made clear. This truism is nowhere more important than in the case of the Federal Reserve.

The Federal Reserve System's functions are essential to efficient operation of the American economy, yet the System is less understood than the industrial, commercial and financial operations which it so much influences. The System has been built and rebuilt during the past four decades, but what happened has not yet been adequately recorded. Unless this work of examining what has been done and setting it down in readable form is begun soon, a vital section of financial and economic history in the United States will be lost.

The papers which would be needed as source material in writing an adequate history are scattered between government, banking and private files. It is not even known what exists, nor where some of what exists could be found. The men who have acted as architects and builders of the present Federal Reserve System are already beginning to disappear. Carter Glass and Governor Strong, for example, are dead. Others are reaching retirement. Those living, whose memories form a most valuable supplement to any papers which they may have, should be approached and asked to contribute personal knowledge and access to papers before it is too late.

Only exploration can reveal what can be made available. But a number of important possibilities exist. Governor Strong's papers have been worked to only a very limited degree, and can yield much more. There may exist at J. P. Morgan some papers of S. Parker Gilbert, and possibly others. E. A. Goldenweiser may have left an important collection. Charles Hamlin left a collection of diaries which have not been examined. Congressional hearings and debates can yield much material and probably important clues.

Among the living there are important memories and doubtless important collections of papers. Those who would certainly be included are Walter W. Stewart, George L. Harrison, Roy A. Young, Robert V. Fleming, Eugene Meyer, Marriner Eccles and Daniel W. Bell.

Investigation would go much farther.

The end product toward which this project is directed would be a comprehensive history of the Federal Reserve System, including the editing for publication of certain source materials, the writing of biographic sketches of some of the most important figures, the composing of books, monographs and articles on special facets of the structure which emerge as of particular interest, and perhaps a popular history or two designed for wide public reading. Obviously such a comprehensive design would be a considerable undertaking, to be carried on over time by experienced specialists in this field.

Meanwhile a great deal of preparatory work is needed before such a comprehensive study of the Federal Reserve System could be started. It is that preparatory work which is the subject of this proposal. Papers which will form the source material should be located, classified, and roughly

analyzed. Important characters in the drama should be sought out, their cooperation asked, and their interest enlisted. The dimensions and proportions of the comprehensive study should be sketched and its possibilities bulked out.

The exploratory study would at least hope to answer the basic questions, "What?," "Where?" and "Whom?"

Genesis of the project

An added factor which presses for a quick start is that such a project has, in one form or another, been quietly simmering in the minds of several persons. Its present active form grows from discussions which have involved Mr. Wm. McO. Martin, Jr., Mr. Allan Sproul, Mr. W. Randolph Burgess, Mr. Walter W. Stewart, Dr. Robert Calkins, Mr. S. Spencer Scott, president of Harcourt Brace & Co., Mr. Donald B. Woodward, and Miss Mildred Adams.

Work Plan

The work plan calls for a staff member, a bibliographer and a secretary to work with the advice and collaboration of a small committee of advisors. This advisory committee will be headed by Mr. Allan Sproul who has consented to serve as chairman. It includes Mr. W. Randolph Burgess, and Mr. Donald Woodward; the latter will act as Secretary. Other members will be added. The services of Miss Mildred Adams, whose schedule calls for more free time after January 1st, may be secured for the post of active staff member in charge of research. Miss Adams is a journalist trained in the handling of economic subjects who is now reporting matters at the United Nations for The Economist of London.

The work will be done under the name of the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System. Arrangements for tax exemption and the disbursement of funds are under way. It is hoped that a beginning may be possible as of January 15, 1954. Desk space will be provided without cost in the quarters and near the library of the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Time and Costs

For an exploratory project of this kind a period of six months should be sufficient. At the end of that time the staff member, working with the advisory committee, should have the major areas of the larger project blocked out, a biographic index of personalities prepared and tests made of their cooperative willingness, a bibliography of basic materials and a map of source papers ready. With those in hand, it will then be possible to attack the problems of the larger project.

End Product - The Larger Design

This proposal concerns only the preparatory stages, during which materials needed for further study of the Federal Reserve System will be surveyed and the cooperation of key persons enlisted. But a pilot project of this type is pointed toward a far wider end product.

The Committee cannot at this time make more than a rough estimate as to how long the larger project may take or how much it might cost. The work toward which this pilot effort leads is of such great value and has such wide ramifications that any attempt to draw its limits now would be revised six months from now. Much more than pure history is involved. The Federal Reserve System is part of the governing structure of the country, and as such its functioning and its effects bear upon the continuing success

of this democracy. They need study from many more angles than are ordinarily contemplated, and they demand far wider understanding than has hitherto been granted.

With this in mind it seems clear that at least five years' work would be involved in producing and publishing such works as a definitive history of the Federal Reserve System, an analysis of its place in the American economy, several volumes of pertinent papers to be collected and edited, one or two key biographies, at least one popular account useable in high school and freshman college courses, articles and monographs in periodicals. Such a comprehensive design might need funds not less in amount than \$500,000, and might well attract scholars from several disciplines. It would spur research and writing in a field rich in possibilities, inadequately covered by present publications, and of vital concern to the country.

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE January 25, 1954.

TO Miss Dillistin
FROM Allan Sproul

SUBJECT Federal Reserve history

As you know, the officers and directors of this Bank have been interested for a number of years in developing a historical record of the Bank. Such a project was undertaken several years ago by Dr. Robert B. Warren of Princeton University, but Dr. Warren's death occurred before much progress had been achieved.

A pilot project to locate and tabulate sources of information and material which might form the basis for later studies and publications with respect to the Federal Reserve System is now being undertaken by Miss Mildred Adams, Research Director of the Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System. The members of the Committee include, beside myself as Chairman, W. Randolph Burgess, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; William McC. Martin, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Walter W. Stewart of the Council of Economic Advisers; and Donald B. Woodward of the Vick Chemical Corporation, Secretary. The project is being aided by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

The project is exploratory in nature--to determine sources and to create a bibliography of material, not to publish material derived from these sources. That may come later. It is hoped that, among other things, the project will establish a pattern for the creation of Bank archives, i.e., a pattern for segregating from the files of the Bank copies of material which will be helpful in establishing a history of the Bank and thus contribute to historical studies of the Federal Reserve System by persons both within and without the Bank.

Miss Katherine McKinstry will act as Research Secretary, assisting Miss Adams. Miss Adams and Miss McKinstry will have general responsibility for the custody of the material being assembled under the project.

Will you please make freely available to Miss Adams and Miss McKinstry such material under your care as, in your opinion, would be helpful to them in connection with the project. All such material is to remain in the Bank under the control of the Bank, and the Bank is to have the right to review whatever material is proposed for inclusion in the segregated source material.

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE January 25, 1954.TO Miss DillistinSUBJECT Federal Reserve historyFROM Allan Sproul

-2-

They will probably find a review of the so-called Strong papers (the special files of Governor Strong's correspondence and other papers) a helpful starting point.

I suggest that as, from time to time, you have any questions regarding the project, you consult with Mr. Arthur H. Willis, Secretary of the Bank, or with Mr. Treiber, First Vice President.

WFT:AS/EAV

cc: Miss Adams /
Mr. A. Willis
Miss McKinstry

ALLAN SPROUL

Thirty Three Liberty Street
New York 45, N.Y.

January 26, 1954

Mr. Donald B. Woodward, Secretary,
Committee on History of the
Federal Reserve System,
33 Liberty Street, New York 45.

Dear Mr. Woodward:

I am sorry to have been slow in answering your
letter of January 18.

Answering your question about adding Robert Calkins
to the Advisory Committee, I am heartily in favor of it. While
he was a director of the Bank I consulted with him about work
in this general area and I know he is interested. Our relation-
ship with the Brookings Institution now makes his appointment a
"natural".

I am enclosing the sheet labelled "Matters Requiring
Committee Opinion" with my opinions.

In the report of Miss Adams there is a reference under
"Headquarters" to a charge to be made by the Federal Reserve
Bank of New York for equipment. The figure of \$10 which is men-
tioned is just an estimate, and telephone service and toll calls
will also be charged. The arrangement will still be economical
and satisfactory, I am sure.

Sincerely,

(Signed) ALLAN SPROUL

Enclosure

C
O
P
Y

January 14, 1954

Messrs. Allan Sproul, Chairman ✓
William M. Martin
W. Randolph Burgess
Walter W. Stewart
Donald B. Woodward

Dr. Robert Calkins

Gentlemen:

In view of the fact that Tuesday, January 19th, proves not to be possible for every member of the Committee, that proposed meeting has been cancelled. In its place, a report on the Committee's present status, together with the questions that were to have been asked there, will be circulated by mail. I hope that this meets your approval.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams
Research Director
Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System

MA:km

New York 21, New York

November 4, 1953

Dear Mr. Sproul:

I am writing you at the suggestion of Mr. Randolph Burgess whom I saw in Washington late last week. He is very much interested in an exploratory project directed toward the collection and development of historical materials pertaining to the Federal Reserve System, on which I am now working. The project would be planned to lead toward the possible editing of various collections of Federal Reserve papers, and the writing of a definitive history of the Federal Reserve System and its effect on the American economy, perhaps with Mr. Burgess as author. The present moment is one of preliminary conversations, staking out of material, and surveying of the field.

In the course of our conversation last week Mr. Burgess said he thought your cooperation vital to the project, and he hoped that I would get in touch with you on my return to New York so as to discuss it with you. This note is to ask whether it might be possible for you to see me early next week. I will phone your secretary for a reply.

Most sincerely yours,

Mildred Adams

Mr. Allen Sproul
President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
33 Liberty Street
New York 45, New York

MA:jl