

April 30, 1954

Internal Memorandum

Papers of John Skelton Williams

In Richmond, Virginia, I called on Mr. John Skelton Williams, Jr. at the Equitable Life Assurance Society. He is the son of Mr. John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency in 1914 to 1921. Mr. Williams tells me that his father's papers have been in the hands of the family since his death. I judge from what he said that they have not been thoroughly classified. He knows that there are diaries, as well as a collection of speeches. He thinks there is also correspondence which may be important. The family has finally come to the conclusion that the papers belong in a responsible depository. They have been considering the respective claims of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond and the University of Virginia. Mr. Williams asked our advice in the matter and I told him that the University of Virginia seemed to me a place where the papers would be more used and useable than the Historical Society of Virginia. I judge from what he said that the papers will be deposited in the near future in the library of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

It was difficult to find out how much of value might be in these papers. When they are put into one depository or another, it will be necessary to survey them. This could possibly be done either by Dr. Kincaid or by the graduate student whom he trains in connection with the Carter Glass papers. Mr. Williams was so vivid and vigorous an opponent of various actions on the part of the Federal Reserve Board that his papers should contain important material. According to Mr. Williams, Jr., their father was an active and acrimonious man who loved battle and argument and whose vituperation corresponded favorably with some of what is now current in political life. (The material available in his papers includes copies of the hearings on the Agricultural Inquiry).

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