

TO: Miss Adams

FROM: Miss Burnett

April 27, 1955

SUBJECT: Papers of officials of First National Bank, especially George F. Baker.

Today I got in touch with the National City Bank to pursue the inquiry, as you directed, about the fate of official files and papers of the merged First National Bank.

For the record, I was referred by Mr. Hevener, Assistant Head of Public Relations Department, to J. McNaughton Thompson, Vice president of the Cashier's Department, which impounded all the papers of the First National Bank. It was also suggested that I speak to George F. Baker, Jr., who is also in the Cashier's Department. However, I passed over Mr. Baker in favor of Mr. Loveland, Assistant vice president, who was Cashier in the First National.

Mr. Loveland said that all the current correspondence files were merged with those of the National City Bank. There was no special archives collection, although some old papers were kept. Old directors' papers were kept in the vault of the First National and are still there, although they will eventually be moved to the vaults of the National City. For specific information about the George F. Baker papers he referred me to the George F. Baker Trust, at 2 Wall Street, of which Mr. Sheridan Logan is executive secretary. (Phone: RE 2- 4000.)

George F. Baker Papers

These papers are not yet available for use but they have been preserved intact and none will be discarded. Many are on file with the Trust, mostly "family stuff". Mr. Logan has hopes that some day this material may be used for an adequate biography of Mr. Baker, which has never been written. He says there is material there for a great life.

Mr. Logan pointed out that Mr. Baker, as well J.P. Morgan and other leaders of the time, did "an enormous, constructive job for the American people, at infinitesimal cost" compared with what is collected in taxes from the people today. These men did make some millions for themselves at the same time - so what? Mr. Logan feels "passionately" about the injustice of the "mud-slinging" at these early financial giants, and thinks Mr. Baker was very smart to maintain complete silence on his affairs. Thus he escaped the kind of criticism heaped on the others and time will reveal the constructive work he did.

Harvard Business Library has the majority of the Baker papers now and eventually, no doubt, all of them will be deposited there. They are "decidedly not" available there for public use. However, if some scholar wished access to them for a serious purpose Mr. Logan believes that the Harvard library could use its own judgment about granting the request.