

January 24, 1942.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mac:

I am taking up with you the matter of the Board vacancy left by Chester Davis, inasmuch as I discussed this with you on the phone a week or so ago. The President has been good enough to consult with me about this vacancy and to put off a final decision so that every effort could be made to find the best available representative of agriculture to fill the place. After giving it a great deal of consideration, I am satisfied that the two best possibilities are R. M. Evans, of the AAA, and Bill Myers, who headed the Farm Credit Administration prior to going back to Cornell in September, 1938.

Of the two, I feel it would be more desirable to appoint Evans who has served continuously with the Administration, first as the AAA representative in Iowa, then as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture in 1936, and since 1938 as Administrator of AAA. He has an excellent record and possibly nobody in the country would be more acceptable to the agricultural groups. He is well regarded by everyone in the Administration who knows him as well as in Congress, and meets every requirement to be the agricultural representative on the Board. I doubt that anyone is any better informed than he is in the broad field of agricultural production, marketing, and particularly farm finance and credit.

Bill Myers likewise has a fine record and qualifications, but he has been out of touch with the Washington Administration and the national scene since he returned to Cornell, and there may be some question of his technical eligibility for appointment owing to the fact that he is from New York and one Board member, Ernest Draper, has already been appointed from that district. Our counsel think this difficulty could be overcome and no question would be raised provided Senator Glass' approval were obtained. However, Evans, who lives in Virginia, could be appointed from this district without any question.

I have talked to Wallace, who thinks Evans would make an excellent Board member to represent agriculture, and Wickard has told me he would be for him second only to Appleby, whom he has been wanting to get out of Agriculture for a long while.

I would appreciate it if you would ascertain from the President whether he would be willing to appoint Evans, and if not, whether he would be favorable to Myers. I understand that Evans would accept,

but do not know whether Myers would do so, assuming the eligibility matter could be cleared with Glass. I felt it would save the President's time if you could take this up with him rather than for me to try to make an appointment to see him when he is so overcrowded. I will appreciate it greatly if you will let me know the President's wishes in this matter.

Faithfully,

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre,
Secretary to the President,
The White House.

 ET:b