

November 7, 1947.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Tom C. Clark,
Attorney General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

At a recent meeting the Board received and considered a report from its Legal Division discussing Transamerica Corporation and its group of controlled banks. In that report Counsel for the Board advised that, in his opinion, the present combined statistical data respecting these banks raises serious questions as to the Board's responsibilities under Section 11 of the Clayton Act. That section, as you know, places upon the Board primary responsibility for effectuating certain aspects of the federal anti-monopoly policy. It was Counsel's recommendation that the Board investigate the entire Transamerica situation in the light of these statutory provisions to determine what action, if any, the Board should take thereunder.

This is to advise you that at its meeting of October 31st last the Board unanimously adopted a resolution directing that an investigation be undertaken under the direction of its Legal Division to ascertain whether there is just cause for the Board to institute the statutory proceeding contemplated by Section 11 of the Clayton Act looking to the entry of an order requiring Transamerica Corporation to divest itself of the stocks of any or all of the banks which it now owns, with the exception of that of Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

JLT:fcc
11/7/47