

COMMITTEE *for* ECONOMIC and SOCIAL PROGRESS ¹/₂
- - - 730 FIFTH AVENUE - NEW YORK CITY - - -
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Marinner Eccles,
Governor, Federal Reserve Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

Mr. John Laing, of J. L. Laing & Son, Limited, is the head of the finest and largest building company in England. Their history dates back over three generations. Their company enjoys a reputation that, unfortunately, is not shared in America by any building company.

The Committee has received many courtesies during their studies of the English program. Among those who have always been most cooperative has been Mr. Laing.

As the dean of English builders, we have been very anxious to get him over here for some time. However, he has always said he was too busy building homes to come to America to talk about it. With perseverance we finally convinced him that he could do a great deal of good by coming over here and talking with some of our leaders in home building and home mortgage finance.

Mr. Laing will arrive in New York on September 20th, and will remain in this country for about two weeks. We have planned a program for him in which you can be particularly helpful, while at the same time we can get first-hand information and knowledge that should be valuable to us in a national program.

On the 29th of September a large luncheon is being given to Mr. Laing in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor. Speeches will be broadcast over the radio on a forty-five or sixty minute program. The New York Building Congress, in conjunction with the Committee, are tendering him this luncheon.

On the evening of September 24th I am giving a little dinner in Washington, in Mr. Laing's honor, at the Hotel Shoreham. About fifteen men will be invited, among whom will be those mentioned in the enclosed list.

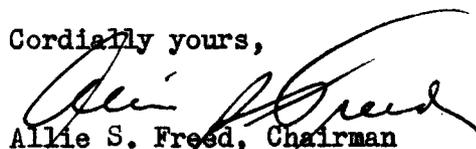
May I ask you to consider this letter an invitation to join us at dinner on the above-mentioned evening, at seven-thirty P.M.? I will phone you on Thursday or Friday.

I think that this will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to show our English cousins that we can do honor to one who represents them, as well as Mr. Laing. A great deal of good will and knowledge will come out of his visit.

I hope you will find it possible to accept this invitation.

Kindest personal regards.

Cordially yours,



Allie S. Freed, Chairman
Committee for Economic and Social Progress

September
fifteenth
1937

Invited Guests:

Mr. Stewart MacDonald
Mr. John D. Biggers
Mr. J. M. Daiger
Mr. Frederic A. Delano

Mr. Marinner Eccles
Mr. John Fahey
Mr. A. S. Freed
Mr. Thomas S. Holden

Mr. John Laing
Mr. Ormond Loomis
Mr. Daniel C. Roper
Mr. Horace Russell

September 17, 1937.

Mr. Allie S. Freed, Chairman,
Committee for Economic and Social Progress,
730 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of September 15th addressed to Mr. Marriner Eccles, Mr. Eccles is in the West at the present time and does not expect to return to Washington until some time after the fifth of October.

It will, therefore, be impossible for Mr. Eccles to accept your kind invitation to the dinner which you are giving for Mr. John Laing of J.L. Laing & Son, Limited, on the evening of September 24th.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Mr. M. S. Eccles.

VLE:mlh