

*Julius Klausner*

• 11 EAST 44th STREET, NEW YORK CITY • MURRAY HILL 2-5969

February 4, 1943

Dear Mr. Eccles:

I am wondering who among those included in the list hereto attached would take the initiative and call together a national assembly of men and women, such as appear in the list, for the purpose of formulating plans to meet the new needs to be encountered after the war is ended.

The National Assembly (an unofficial body) should be called into being at an early date to allow ample time for deliberation and the drafting of plans to be submitted to Congress for consideration and action and also for the submission to both the Republican and Democratic parties in advance of the conventions of 1944.

The task of bringing the Assembly into being should be undertaken only by some of those who are to be members of the Assembly. We can well understand why Messrs. Rockefeller, Dupont and Lamont would not be among the first to take the initiative in organizing the Assembly, but very likely they would not refrain from joining should the call come to them from you and others, including the representatives of labor.

Because of your many activities I realize full well that your days are crowded; however, I hope that you will give me a little of your time and thus afford me the opportunity to outline to you what I believe the Assembly could accomplish.

Anticipating an invitation to visit you, I hasten to inform you that I am totally sightless, but not unhappily so. I have been sightless for eighteen years and can truthfully say that the experience has been intensely interesting. My work is that of writing mail solicitation for retailers.

Cordially

*J. Klausner*

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles  
33 Liberty Street  
New York City

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Thomas W. Lamont	Charles L. McNary	John Steinbeck
John D. Rockefeller	Wright Patman	Joseph E. Davies
Lamont Dupont	Harry S. Truman	John W. Studebaker USCE
Henry Ford	Styles Bridges	Lyman Bryson
Thomas J. Watson	Paul V. McNutt	Edward J. Parker NCSA
Donald M. Nelson	Walter D. Fuller	Lewis E. Lawes
William M. Jeffers	William Allen White	Walter Lippmann
Henry Kaiser	Charles Evans Hughes	Raymond Clapper
Myron C. Taylor	James F. Byrnes	Stuart Chase
Owen D. Young	Arthur Garfield Hays	48 Governors
Bernard Baruch	Herbert H. Lehman	30 Women including -
William S. Knudsen	F. H. La Guardia	Eleanor Roosevelt
Lessing Rosenwald	James B. Conant	Frances Perkins
Lincoln Filene	Robert M. Hutchins	Mildred H. McAfee FW
Michael Schasap	Ray Lyman Wilbur	Dorothy Thompson
Marriner S. Eccles	T. V. Smith	Mrs. William Kletzer NPPTA
Henry A. Wallace	F. D. Patterson PT	
Frank Knox	William Green	
Claude R. Wickard	Philip Murray	
Sumner Welles	Marshall Field	
Herbert Hoover	Albert Lasker	
Alfred S. Landon	Msgr. Fulton J. Sheehan	
Wendell L. Wilkie	Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick	
Alfred E. Smith	Dr. Stephen S. Wise	
Norman Thomas	Cecil B. DeMille	
John C. Winant	Robert E. Sherwood	
George W. Norris	Carl Sandburg	

February 8, 1943.

Mr. Julius Klausner,  
11 East 44th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Klausner:

This is to acknowledge your letter of February 4 in regard to your proposal for a national assembly to formulate plans for the post-war world. I am, of course, deeply interested in this extremely important subject of preparation for the changed conditions which will confront us when the war ends, and I am particularly impressed by the fine philosophic spirit in which you write.

You would, I am sure, wish me to be entirely candid about the feasibility of such an ambitious program as I see it. As you know, a great deal of work is now being done on post-war programs. We have given special attention to the problem in the Federal Reserve System, not only here at the Board but throughout the entire System at the Reserve Banks and their branches. Many Government departments and agencies, notably the National Resources Planning Board, the State Department, the Department of Commerce, the Treasury Department, and others are working actively on various aspects of the post-war world from the standpoint not only of national but international problems. In addition, numerous private groups have undertaken their own research and study and are collaborating with Government groups. There is the problem of bringing the fruits of all these labors together, but I am seriously doubtful whether an assembly such as you have in mind, though it is composed of the ablest men who can be found, would be able to accomplish anything in a practical way, no matter how disinterested and public spirited they may be. Many of the men whose names you list are already connected in one way or another with post-war studies.

Let me mention also one other consideration. I recognize that you desire to bring together men who will lift this subject out of the realm of politics and partisanship. Worthy as that purpose is, we must be realistic in recognizing that this is a democracy and that to obtain practical results, plans and programs have to go through the established democratic channels. That is as it should be. We cannot supersede the constitutional governmental processes.

I have no doubt that if you could get agreement among men of such widely varying viewpoints as are represented in your list, it would give impetus and prestige to whatever program they could agree

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upon. Yet these men could not themselves take the time from their already crowded hours to sit down and formulate a program, even assuming one could be found that would meet the widely divergent viewpoints.

I felt I should write you thus candidly, particularly because I was so favorably impressed with your commendable attitude.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,  
Chairman.

 ET:b