

# The Federation of Civic Associations

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CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS  
1937-38

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4906 Blair Street, N. E.  
George W. Beasley, Central Northwest  
926 Tea Street, N. W.  
Patrick Tolliver, Deanwood  
4909 Sheriff Road, N. E.  
Miss Corrine Martin, East Central  
1501 12th Street, N. W.  
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Henry Johnson, Garfield  
2306 Bruce Place, S. E.  
Mercer Sampson, Hillsdale  
2601 Pomeroy Road, S. E.  
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1835 Kendall Street, N. E.  
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Mrs. Velma Williams, Pleasant Plains  
2700 Georgia Ave., N. W.  
Dr. George H. Richardson, Public Interest  
809 11th Street, N. E.  
Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, Rock Creek  
2712 P Street, N. W.  
~~Walter A. Pischke~~, Southeast  
401 13th Street, S. E.  
John T. Rhines, Southwest  
302 Eye Street, S. W.

MEETS IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE  
DISTRICT BUILDING  
Every Fourth Friday  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 26, 1939.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
of the  
21 AFFILIATED  
CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Charles M. Thomas, President  
4922 Fitch Place, N. E.  
Mrs. Velma G. Williams, Vice President  
2700 Georgia Ave., N. W.  
Hugh Bradford, Vice President  
1225 W Street, N. W.  
Mrs. Ruby M. Kendrick, Recording Secretary  
751-A Fairmont Street, N. W.  
Mrs. Mary Curtis, Assistant Recording Secretary  
4232 Lane Place, N. E.  
Kenneth H. Carter, Corresponding Secretary  
733 13th Street, N. E.  
Col. Howard D. Queen, Treasurer  
106 58rd Street, N. E.  
The Rev. David C. Lynch, Chaplain  
217 D Street, S. W.  
Dr. George H. Richardson, President Emeritus  
809 11th Street, N. E.  
George W. Beasley, Parliamentarian  
926 Tea Street, N. W.

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles,  
Chairman, Board of Governors,  
Federal Reserve System,  
Washington.

Sir:

Permit me the liberty to say a word in support of your very wise and clear defense of the policies of the Roosevelt administration. I am hoping that you may organize this program from many angles and thus aid in turning the tide against the old and decadent system of individual right to ownership exclusive of social contribution.

Very respectfully,

*Charles M. Thomas*  
Pres. etc., -

also: Executive-secretary, Colored National Democratic League  
Member, Tax Revision Committee, D.C., 1938-39.  
Adviser, Lodge 466, American Federation, Government  
Employees.  
Professor social science, Armstrong high school, D.C.

February 3, 1939

Mr. Charles M. Thomas  
4922 Fitch Place, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

Chairman Eccles has asked me to acknowledge  
and thank you for your letter of January 26 with its  
enclosure, in which you commend his recent radio ad-  
dress before the National Radio Forum.

Yours very truly,

Lawrence Clayton  
Assistant to the Chairman

fgr

Received in  
Chairman's Office  
FEB 1 1939  
Board of Governors  
of the  
Federal Reserve System

In re defense of Federal Program of Spending, by Hon. Marriner S. Eccles in radio addresses, 1939.

"Often a liberal antidote of experience supplies a sovereign cure for a paralytic abstraction built upon a theory", says the late Mr. Justice Cardozo in "The Paradoxes of Legal Science."

This "liberal dose" was supplied by your treatment of the program of the Roosevelt administration, as any student of progressive economics recognizes, provided the study is flanked by actual experience.

Your concluding sentence is a Q E D, and is supported by several opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court itself, over a period of years: *Locker vs New York*, 198 U.S., 45; *Adair vs United States*, 208 U.S., 161; *Coppage vs Kansas*, 236 U.S. 1; *Kuhn vs Common Council*, 70 Mich. 534; *Smith vs Texas*, 235 U.S. 630; and *People vs Crane*, 214 N.Y., 154, to name those read and re-read.

In the last, the opinion says: "To better the condition of its own citizens, and it may be to prevent pauperism among them, the legislature has declared that the moneys of the state shall go to the people of the state."

In *Smith vs Texas*, the opinion, delivered by Mr. Justice Lamar (please note); says: "Life, liberty, property and the equal protection of the laws, grouped together in the Constitution, are so related that the deprivation of one of these separate and independent rights may lessen or extinguish the value of the other three. In so far as a man is deprived of the right to labor, his liberty is restricted, his capacity to earn wages and acquire property is lessened, and he is denied the protection which the law affords those who are permitted to work." That millions of Americans shall not be allowed to work in a democratic form of government, through faulty distribution, while a few receive constantly increasing income, threatens perpetuity.

Your denial of the similarity between government spending and that of an individual and business, should be more widely disseminated. It is the kernel of the argument for the rightness of the program of the administration, and was recommended in the comprehensive survey by the Hoover Commission, but, his party repudiated it.

Government debts are "bookkeeping" through the decades and centuries of that governments existence, while the circulation of moneys is the life-blood of economic movement in such an economy as ours. The fact is, a government in so favorable a position as the United States, should afford the principal avenue of investment of small savings at a very much lower interest than is now paid, while its planned programs for the future safety and welfare should be financed without let or hindrance, except for mal or misfeasance.

Fundamentally, the Roosevelt administration is opposed by the landholders inured to parasitism, curable only by drastic inheritance taxes and levies upon ground rents.