

# John H. Baldwin's Home-Merchant Service

April 30, 1939


Hon. Marriner S. Eccles,  
Chairman Board of Governors  
of the Federal Reserve System,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

I have just read an exchange of  
correspondence between yourself and Senator  
Bird of Virginia, as inserted in the appendix  
of the Congressional Record by the Honorable  
Carter Glass on Monday January 16, 1939.

This correspondence deals with  
the United States fiscal policy, and if this  
re-print of the Congressional Record is accurate  
and fairly represents your views as well as those  
of Senator Bird, I suggest that in all fairness  
to your Country, that you resign your post as  
the head of the Federal Reserve System.

Respectfully,

  
John H. Baldwin  
Mendon, Illinois.

*Copied  
NY - letters  
your suggestion  
about a new program  
and a new organization  
but unhappily can do  
not complete it as  
a public relation  
to my banker has*

April 23, 1939.

Mr. John H. Baldwin,  
Mendon, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I have your letter of April 20 in which you ask whether the correspondence inserted in the ~~Congressional Record by Senator Glass on Monday, January 16~~, fairly represents my views. It distinctly does not.

It was because Senator Byrd had so thoroughly misunderstood my views that I undertook to correct the erroneous impression which he created by his address in Boston. My own viewpoint is expressed in an address in New York on December 1 last as well as in the subsequent open letter and radio talk in answer to Senator Byrd, copies of which I am enclosing in case you might be interested in getting the other side of the picture.

Permit me to add that I am sympathetic with your suggestion that I resign, but, unhappily, the law does not contemplate resignation, as it would prohibit me from returning to my banking business for a period of two years—a prohibition that does not exist when a member of this Board serves out the term for which he is appointed. I have long felt that this law should be changed, and I judge I could count on your support in that respect at least.

Very truly yours,

Received in  
Chairman's Office  
APR 24 1939  
M. S. Eccles,  
Chairman, Board of Governors  
of the  
Federal Reserve System

enclosures

ET:b