

July 22, 1937

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. William T. Nardin
The Pet Milk Company
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Bill:

I have delayed replying further to your letter of June 16th until I was able to see Mr. Gibbs Lyons personally. This I did yesterday and had a long discussion with him which confirmed my previous impression. After reading this letter I would be glad to have you call me on the telephone so that I can give you a full report of my visit with him and my conclusions respecting his qualifications.

Prior to my interview I had secured considerable information respecting Mr. Lyons which is given below. I have also discussed the matter with two friends here in Washington in whose judgment I have the highest confidence and who have had personal contact with Mr. Lyons, and they both confirm my own opinion.

(Information furnished by a man of highest integrity under whom Mr. Lyons served for several years until about a year ago):

"Mr. Lyons was born December 24, 1898. Present age, 38 years. Native of Jackson, Georgia. Educated Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky, and Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Entered employment Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta early 1917 and was connected with such bank until June 1, 1919. During his employment with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, he served as bookkeeper and later as utility clerk in various departments of the Bank.

"On June 2, 1919, Mr. Lyons entered the employment of the National Banking Department as reconciliation clerk in the Office of the Chief National Bank Examiner for the 6th Federal Reserve District with headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia. He was

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"appointed Assistant National Bank Examiner in 1920 for the 6th Federal Reserve District. In 1924, he was transferred to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, D. C. and was commissioned as National Bank Examiner in 1927. From 1924 to 1933 he worked in and out of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, D. C., serving in various capacities, including Receiver of national banks, Special Examiner, Examiner in charge of reorganization of failed national banks.

"Mr. Lyons was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury as Deputy Comptroller of the Currency on January 23, 1933, in which capacity he is still serving.

"At the time of Mr. Lyons' appointment as Deputy Comptroller, the banking crisis was rapidly approaching and through this crisis and the period of reorganization and rehabilitation which followed, he served with distinction in connection with the various problems that arose in the Comptroller's office.

"At the present time, Mr. Lyons' duties are principally in connection with going bank problems."

In addition to the above data I am advised that Mr. Lyons has two children, ages about ten and two and a half years respectively. I am advised also that Mr. Lyons did not finish college but took some third year courses. In this connection, you will note that he entered the employment of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta when he was only eighteen and at the age of twenty joined the examining force of the Comptroller, being stationed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. In view of these facts I can well understand that he was not able to finish college and it looks very much as though he started to work soon after leaving high school and took some of his college work either at night or in summer school.

During the banking holiday Mr. Lyons was exceptionally capable and was the mainstay of the Acting Comptroller, so I am informed. His present salary is \$10,000 per annum.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

LC/fgr

M. S. Eccles

