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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

February 2, 1948

Marriner S. Eccles, Esq.  
Board of Governors  
Federal Reserve System  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Marriner:

Doubtless you have seen the diatribe by Leslie Gould. About twelve copies have been cut out and sent to me by different individuals, and in case you have not seen it, I enclose it and will be glad to have any comments you care to make.

Unless you wish, I would be inclined to make no answer.

Sincerely yours,

*Chas. W. Tobey*

Enclosure

This article is protected by copyright and has been removed.

The citation for the original is:

Gould, Leslie. "Was Anti-Eccles Force." *New York Journal American*, January 30, 1948.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 9, 1948.

Dear Senator:

I had intended acknowledging sooner your letter of February 2 enclosing one of Leslie Gould's typical diatribes but, as you know, I have been somewhat preoccupied.

He has been writing this stuff for years, some of it very vicious, and possibly libelous. I have long suspected that he gets his inspiration in a very practical way from a number of sources. He has long crusaded against margin requirements and has always been vitriolic on this point. He has echoed with remarkable similarity efforts of a certain West Coast banker to muddy the waters by personal attacks on me in connection with the bank holding company bill.

The innuendo which he constantly makes is that I have influenced the awarding of contracts to the Utah Construction Company. I hardly need assure you that this is a malicious falsehood and that I have never, directly or indirectly, in any way whatsoever, intervened in behalf of that or any other company, nor have I ever been asked to do so.

My own and my family's business and banking connections were exhaustively scrutinized by Senator Glass when I was first nominated but I emerged with a clean bill of health, as was evidenced by the fact that I was confirmed without opposition, except from Senator Glass himself, on the first occasion and then confirmed on three subsequent occasions without a dissenting vote.

Gould's irresponsibility is evidenced by this article. For instance, he refers to "Eccles' pulling the plug the day before Christmas on the Government bond market, bringing chaos to the trading in all high-grade securities." That action was unanimously approved by the entire Board and Federal Open Market Committee as well as by the Treasury itself. It had no such chaotic consequences as he suggests.

In fact, this article is replete with misrepresentation but I shall not intrude further on your time. Much as I am tempted to answer such deliberate malice, I have not replied to Gould directly because I do not want to dignify him or give him an excuse for using me as a further springboard. At one time we gave some consideration to a libel suit but discarded the idea for much the same reasons, in addition to the

fact that it is so difficult or impossible for a public official to obtain any redress through that channel, particularly in the case of a sly writer who resorts to inference and innuendo rather than an outright accusation.

I appreciate your passing the column along to me as well as your own comment.

Always with best regards,

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Charles W. Tobey,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

 ET:b