

BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BROOKLYN
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 9, 1941.

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles,
Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Federal Reserve System,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

We should greatly appreciate having a copy of your statement to the House Ways and Means Committee relative to the proposed tax program.

If your office has a copy available which can be sent to us, it would be very helpful in connection with the studies being made by a committee of financial officers of corporations in this Borough through the Chamber.

Yours very truly,



D. L. Tilly,
President.

DLT:GG

*Sent 5/10/41
mt*

YOUR INVESTMENTS

10 E. 40th STREET

NEW YORK

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AMERICAN INVESTORS UNION, Inc.
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May 15, 1941

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles, Chairman
Federal Reserve Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

We should be very grateful if you could send us reprints of the address you made to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and your statement to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives regarding future tax legislation.

Very truly yours,


Bernard J. Reis

bjr;s

*Sent 5/16/41
meb*

SIX HUNDRED AND TWO PAVONIA AVENUE
JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS, N.J.

May 16th, 1941

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles,
Chairman, Federal Reserve Board,
New York,
N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

It appears to me Professor Irving Fisher's proposal to tax only the portion of income spent is worthy of careful study. Any system of taxation that destroys or impairs invested capital is wrong. Our income tax laws should provide for payment of taxes as you go, for it may be impossible for a taxpayer to pay when due, the taxes that have accrued the previous year.

I am strongly opposed to a death tax on that part of an estate that descends at death direct to the remaining parent and their offspring. Such a tax is unamerican. It takes away the incentive to save and may destroy what was saved through economy to protect family after parents death.

I make no objection to taxes on any other disposition of an estate, and also believe gift taxes are in order.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. J. Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

May 21, 1941.

Mr. W. F. Harbranft,
602 Pavonia Avenue,
Jersey City Heights, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Harbranft:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 16 in regard to taxation. If the inheritance tax laws were amended to include the exemption which you suggest, estates could be passed on from generation to generation tax free. I feel that this would be contrary to American principles of equity and justice.

I outlined my own views with regard to estate and gift taxes when I testified before the Ways and Means Committee on May 7 and I am enclosing a copy of that statement since it quotes a paragraph from the President's Message to Congress in June of 1935 with which I wholly agree.

I am glad to have your views and appreciate your courtesy in writing.

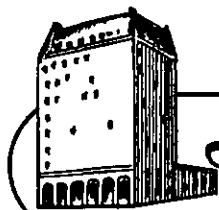
Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman

enclosure

ET:b

RECEIVED
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF ST. LOUIS
MAY 13 1941
Chairman's Office



Studio PUBLISHING COMPANY

STUDIO BUILDING . . . PORTLAND, OREGON

May 20, 1941

Mr. Elliott Thurston,
Assistant to the Chairman,
Federal Reserve System,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Mr. Thurston:

It is most gratifying to me that Mr. Eccles and Mr. Henderson have recommended at least part of the tax program I am advocating. Let us keep constantly in mind that taxes on machine products are met by machines while taxes on income and on most property are met with man energy. That taxes on gasoline cost no one anything, in the long run. Gasoline is cheaper now than before it was taxed. So are cigarettes. If we could lay a tax of ten per cent of the labor saved by every labor saving machine, laid on the product of that machine, we should go a long way toward solving our economic troubles.

Why not call such taxes, (a tax on production), "production taxes". They are similar to sales taxes but sales taxes are such a nuisance.

Suppose our entire productive capacity once got into high gear. 140 billions could be produced. We could take 40 billion of it for war pruposes and have more left than we are now producing,- or am I dreaming?

Sir Charles Morgan Webb told me Mr. Eccles is way out ahead in his thinking about finding a larger buying power and how I wish I could talk to him or to some important committee about how we may increase our buying power without inflation or further government borrowing.

Very truly yours,

J. Roy Ellison, author of The
Answer to Unemployment.

May 28, 1941.

Mr. J. Roy Ellison,
Studio Publishing Company,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Ellison:

Thank you for your letter of May 20.
I do not think you are dreaming at all about
having \$40 billions devoted to war or, for that
matter, to peace purposes on a national income
of \$140 billions and still have a residue as great
or greater than we ever had before. The catch,
of course, is in attaining full production and then
maintaining it, for doubtless those who are willing
to countenance governmental expenditures for making
things of war would oppose spending an equivalent
for things of peace.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Elliott Thurston

Elliott Thurston,
Special Assistant
to the Chairman.

ET:b



Indiana Bankers Association

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KRIEG & DEVAULT
LEGAL COUNSEL
INDIANAPOLIS



W. C. HARRISON
TAX COUNSEL
INDIANAPOLIS

June 26, 1941

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles, Chairman
Federal Reserve Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

I noticed by the American Banker that you are not in favor of a two cent tax on checks. On behalf of the bankers of Indiana permit me to thank you for the position you have taken. We feel that you are exactly right in your attitude.

When this tax was with us before it yielded to the Government only about \$60,000,000, and it is estimated that it cost the banks more than that to collect it, and in loss of business it would be hard to estimate what it cost us. We feel that it would drive much business away from us and would hurt the banks much more than the good it would do for the Government.

Very respectfully yours,

W. W. Gasser
President

WWG:MY

July 5, 1941.

Mr. W. W. Gasser,
President,
Indiana Bankers Association,
Union Title Building,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Gasser:

This will acknowledge and thank you
for yours of June 26, 1941, in which you comment
on my recent testimony before a committee of
Congress in which I opposed a tax on bank checks.

Yours sincerely,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

LC: cm

Received in
Chairman's Office

JUN 28 1941

Board of Governors
of the
Federal Reserve System

14/82/7

FLORIDA BANK AT STARKE

MEMBER
FLORIDA NATIONAL GROUP

W. B. SEWELL, PRESIDENT
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S. L. PEEK, JR., CASHIER

STARKE, FLORIDA

June 28, 1941

Honorable Marriner S. Eccles
Federal Reserve Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have noticed with much interest a report in the American Banker of your expressed opposition to a Federal Tax on bank checks.

In my opinion the overwhelming majority of bankers agree with you and oppose the tax on checks, and this opposition is not based on the habit of chronological objection voiced by them to any and all changes involved in new legislation.

It appears to me that on the whole banks pay their share of taxes, and in some instances, especially with country banks, a full share. It must be evident to banks that the Defense Program will impose increased and perhaps new taxes on banks, but I am also firmly of the belief that bankers much prefer having it in some other form than tax on checks, and I am sure the greater majority of country banks will be grateful to you for your best efforts to avoid this form of tax.

Very truly yours,


President

WBS:w

July 2, 1941.

Mr. W. B. Sewell,
President,
Florida Bank at Starke,
Starke, Florida.

Dear Mr. Sewell:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 28 in which you comment upon my recent testimony in opposition to a Federal tax on bank checks. I am glad to have your commendation, but I should correct what appears to be some misunderstanding of the principal basis of my opposition.

It was not so much in order to relieve the banks of an additional tax burden as it was to avoid placing additional taxes on consumers. This is in line with my general approach to the problem of taxation during the present situation, as referred to briefly in a recent address before the United States Chamber of Commerce, a copy of which I am enclosing - in the event you are interested. The reference to taxes appears on pages 3-4.

I would not have you think from the above, however, that I am not mindful of the fact that a tax on bank checks is a substantial burden upon banks since it requires an added amount of bookkeeping and is a nuisance generally. This was also amply demonstrated at the time of the last Federal tax on bank checks during the early 30's.

Yours very truly,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

Enclosure - 1.

LC cm

Federal Reserve System
of the
Board of Governors

JUN 30 1941

RECEIVED
Chairman's Office