

1755 NW 59th St.,  
Miami, Fla.  
June 27th, 1939.

Hon. Marriner Eccles,  
Federal Reserve Board,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

Congratulations on your clear perception regarding increase of old age pensions to create greater purchasing power! (W. Merry-Go-Round 6/27).

Do you know of GENERAL WELFARE BILL HR 5620, which is a simple, economical, pay-as-you-go bill written by one of the keenest legislative experts in the country, Arthur L. Johnson, head of General Welfare Federation of America and formerly for 20 years labor legislative representative for state of California?

(unemployed)

This bill provides for \$30-\$60 per month to all/at 60, financed by a gross income tax on added values (non-pyramiding). Since Dr. Gallup's poll shows that 94% of the people favor old age pensions of \$40-\$60 per month, and 87% would be willing to pay extra tax to support same, it would seem that this bill deserves due consideration from all who are working for the greatest good for the greatest number, i.e. if we are still a DEMOCRACY!

As it now stands, this splendid bill is stymied in the Ways & Means Committee (while crackpot Townsend bill was released for vote). But a petition is now before the House to force it out of committee and at least allow fair consideration of same.

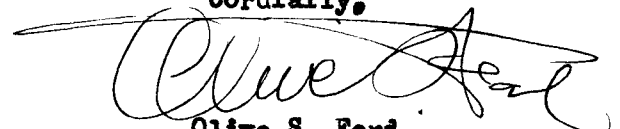
Will you not use your good offices to help get this bill, which is the ONLY one that meets the views of the common people and the expert economists also, out on the floor for a hearing? If the Democratic party does not enact some old age relief program that is more satisfactory than the present ridiculous Social Security Act (which NOBODY likes), they can certainly expect certain defeat at the polls in 1940. If the powers that be think they can deliberately defy the wishes of 94% of the American people, they are due for a rude awakening in 1940!

For this reason I am appealing to you, who are grounded in the inexorable principles of Christianity as applied to every phase of life as the ONLY solution to our problems, to lend the full weight of your assistance to this just & pressing cause. It is right from a HUMANITARIAN standpoint, from an ECONOMIC standpoint, and from a POLITICAL standpoint. Need I say more?

Thanks in advance for your help in this vital matter, and with best wishes for your splendid work along progressive lines, I am

P.S. The Nat. Executive Board of C.I.O. has just adopted resolution to make a national campaign to achieve "real security" for aged on pensions of \$60-\$90, which is virtually our bill.

Cordially,

  
Olive S. Ford  
Member National Advisory Council  
General Welfare Federation of America

July 1, 1939.

Miss Olive S. Ford,  
Member, National Advisory Council,  
General Welfare Federation of America,  
1755 NW 39th Street,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Miss Ford:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 27. I was interested to have your comments on the subject of pensions.

While I am not familiar with the provisions of H.R. 5620 and there is no direct way in which I can be of any help in gaining consideration for it, I am in favor of paying out higher pensions at this time instead of taxing pension funds out of the public and thus out of purchasing power. This is, to my mind, a heavy drag on recovery.

I wanted you to know that I was glad to have your comments and appreciated your interest and courtesy in writing to me.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,  
Chairman,

ET:b