

The United States News

22ND AND M STS. N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 16, 1941

Hon. Marriner S. Eccles
Chairman, Board of Governors
Federal Reserve System
Federal Reserve Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

May we have the benefit of your viewpoint on this vital defense financing problem?

Presidential advisers propose a second 1941 tax program -- a new pay-roll tax to produce \$1,850,000,000 additional revenue. In the background is a program to broaden the Social Security system and to check the forces of inflation. All this affects employers and their employees everywhere in the United States.

Because of the importance of the subject, The United States News, to obtain a cross-section of informed opinion, would be very grateful to you for a brief answer to the following question:

Should pay-roll taxes for Social Security be increased to provide more revenue to meet defense costs and to curb inflation?

We will appreciate from you a reply of about 100 words, by special delivery, or by telegraph press rate collect, so that it will reach us by or before Wednesday, October 22, or by Thursday, October 23, at the latest.

May we have your cooperation, please? Our Question of the Week page is widely read because of the outstanding importance in their respective fields of those whose replies are published.

Awaiting your reply,

Sincerely yours,



F. J. Hall
Assistant Managing Editor

FJH:qw

October 20, 1941.

Mr. F. J. Hall,
Assistant Managing Editor,
The United States News,
22d and M Streets, Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

In response to your inquiry of
October 16, I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Eccles'
speech before the National Tax Association. On
pages 7 and 8 he specifically states his views on the
question you ask.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Elliott Thurston

Elliott Thurston,
Special Assistant
to the Chairman.

enclosure

ET:b

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO

October 16, 1941

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Elliott Thurston
Special Assistant to the Chairman
Washington, D. C.

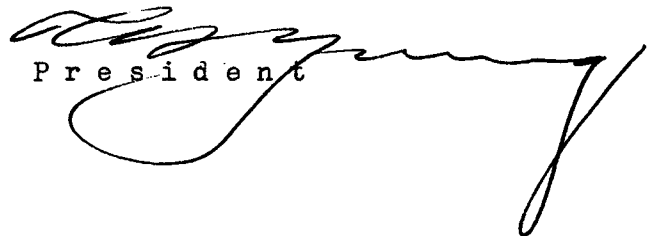
Dear Elliott:

We have had several calls this week, and especially today, for extra copies of Mr. Eccles' article in Fortune magazine.

Would it be possible to send us fifty additional copies?

We would also like to have fifty additional copies of Mr. Eccles' speech delivered at St. Paul on Tuesday.

Very truly yours,


P r e s i d e n t

October 20, 1941.

Mr. C. S. Young,
President,
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Hap:

In accordance with your letter of October 16, I am having fifty additional copies of Mr. Eccles' Fortune article, also fifty copies of his Minneapolis speech sent to you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Elliott Thurston

Elliott Thurston,
Special Assistant
to the Chairman.

ET cm

George K. Bowden

Attorney at Law
105 West Adams Street
Chicago

Franklin 4824

Washington
American Security Building
National 3080

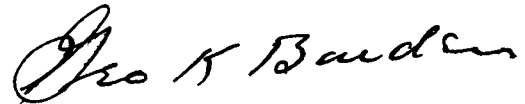
October 17, 1941.

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

My dear Mr. Eccles:

Randolph Paul has told me about the excellency of your address before the National Tax Association at St. Paul. I would greatly appreciate your mailing me a copy thereof.

Respectfully yours,



GKB:LL

October 21, 1941.

My dear Mr. Bowden:

This is to acknowledge receipt of
your note of October 17 with reference to my
talk before the National Tax Association.

In accordance with your request, I
take pleasure in enclosing a copy of the
text.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. George K. Bowden,
105 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

enclosure

ET:b

THE PLAZA BANK OF ST. LOUIS
TWELVE THIRTY OLIVE STREET
SAINT LOUIS

F. R. VONWINDEGGER
PRESIDENT

October 20, 1941

Board of Governors
Federal Reserve System
Washington, D. C.

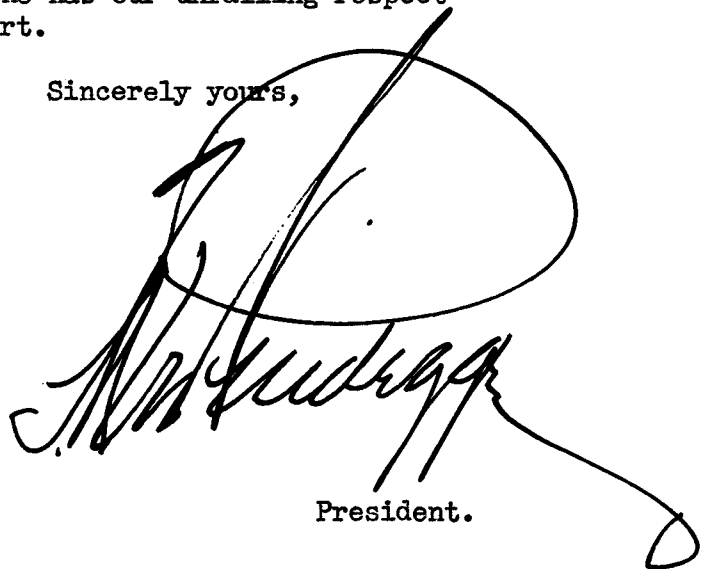
Attention: Mr. Clayton

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Our local Federal Reserve Bank does not have a copy which they can send us of Mr. Eccles' speech before the National Tax Association on October fourteenth at St. Paul (release Z-594.) As we are always much interested and encouraged by Mr. Eccles' public statements, we would like very much to have a copy of this speech for study.

Our best regards to you and to Mr. Eccles, who has our unfailing respect and support.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to F. R. VonWiddegger, the President of The Plaza Bank of St. Louis. The signature is written over the "Sincerely yours," and extends below the line.

FRvW:DF

President.

October 22, 1941.

Mr. F. R. von Windegger,
President,
The Plaza Bank of St. Louis,
1230 Olive Street,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. von Windegger:

This will acknowledge your kind letter
of October 20 in which you request a copy of Mr.
Eccles' speech before the National Tax Association
on October 14.

Mr. Eccles was gratified by the encourag-
ing sentiments expressed in your letter, and is pleased
to have me enclose the copy you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence Clayton,
Assistant to the Chairman.

Enclosure

cm

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

3

FELTON M. JOHNSTON, CLERK

October 24, 1941.

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

My dear Sir:

I shall be greatly obliged if you
will send me a copy of the address you made
on October fourteenth at the 34th Annual
National Taxation Conference.

With thanks,

Sincerely yours,



*Sent 10/25/41
meb*

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
GEORGE F. BAKER FOUNDATION

J. FRANKLIN EBERSOLE
*Edmund Cogswell Converse Professor
of Banking and Finance*

SOLDIERS FIELD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
October 29, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Eccles:

For my own personal reading and
files I wish to obtain copies of your
addresses made to the Chicago district
meeting of the Illinois Bankers Association,
and at the Tax Conferences in St. Paul.

The newspapers indicate that you
have made a number of new and interesting
proposals, but I do not wish to rely upon
the newspapers for the concrete details of
your plan.

Sincerely yours,


J. F. Ebersole

October 31, 1941.

Mr. J. F. Ebersole,
Professor of Banking and Finance,
Graduate School of Business Administration,
Harvard University,
Soldiers Field,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Professor Ebersole:

In response to your request of October 29, I am enclosing a copy of the address given by Chairman Eccles before the National Tax Association on October 14.

As the address before the Illinois Bankers Association at Chicago was extemporaneous, there are no copies available for distribution.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Elliott Thurston

Elliott Thurston,
Special Assistant
to the Chairman.

enclosure

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UNIVERSITY CLUB
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1941

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

My dear Mr. Eccles:

Can you spare me a copy of your address before the National Tax Association, October 14, in which you have been quoted as requesting the States to get rid of or at least check their use of sales taxes.

From our Federal viewpoint such a request is plausible, but could anyone at all familiar with the actual workings of State legislatures and their inexperienced fiscal officers -- lack of State planning and research as we know it here -- expect that anything can be done along that line in advance of even the great crisis that some of us see ahead?

In fact, where will some of the principal (i. e., largest and richest) States turn except to transaction taxes to meet new expenses and higher prices? Not to incomes, surely, and property taxes are unavailable.

I raise this question of procedure as I have had to deal with it for so many years, in both New York and Michigan for taxpayer groups, also in the latter State for a State Tax Study Commission selected by the then Governor, now Mr. Justice Frank Murphy. I have had to deal with insistent phases of the same question in most States in connection with Federal relief grants and (as now) for WPA in connection with local capacity to support works projects.

Please pardon a hasty essay. Nothing but a request was intended.

Sincerely,

Leo Day Woodworth.

November 19, 1941.

Mr. Leo Day Woodworth,
University Club,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Woodworth:

On behalf of Chairman Eccles who is on a visit in the West, I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 17, and I enclose a copy of the Chairman's address before the National Tax Association on October 14.

This will, I think, throw some light on the points you make recognizing, as you do, the tremendous difficulties that lie in the way of improving the tax system, Federal State and local.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Elliott Thurston

Elliott Thurston,
Special Assistant
to the Chairman.

enclosure

ET:b