



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

Personal attention please.

St. Louis, Mo., March 15, 1943.

Dear Mr. Eccles: Re your speech of the 11th, it's too bad you dont have to go through what the low income group is going thru. How would you manage this--

\$85.00 monthly salary  
5.00 " board  
\$80.00 left  
6.00 monthly carfare  
\$74.00 left  
10.00 monthly lunch cost  
\$64.00  
1.50 Social Security & Victory taxes deducted

\$62.50 left monthly  
6.00 monthly for income tax  
\$56.50 monthly left or about

\$3.00 per week for amusement, personal & outer clothing replacements. Also deduct 75¢ for Group Hospital dues (doctor bill not included). How to pay a dentist or doctor bill & medicine out of this \$3.00?—yet you ask for more taxes. Taxes must come DOWN for us! Please reply.

(Miss) Helen Newman,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

March 17, 1943.

Miss Helen Newman,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Miss Newman:

This is to acknowledge your postal card of March 15 addressed to Mr. Eccles, who is temporarily out of the city.

I enclose a copy of the full text of his talk to which you refer because the newspaper account which you mention evidently alluded only to the withholding tax, and if it is the same account I saw, did not make very clear what he had in mind. Very simply, what he was proposing was that if the Victory tax is retained, to make the withholding tax 25 per cent, but he expressed a preference for repealing the Victory tax altogether and having a flat 30 per cent withholding tax. He would, however, couple this with something like the Rumml plan so that the tax would be current, and what would happen in your case would be that the \$6.00 monthly, or whatever the amount is, that you refer to would be deducted at the source and your tax would be paid up. The only difference would be that you would not receive the money and pay it over yourself.

The fixed income groups, of course, are particularly hard hit not only as living costs go up, but as taxes rise, and perhaps some device will yet be found to make special provision for those whose incomes have not kept pace.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Thurston,  
Special Assistant  
to the Chairman.

Enclosure  
ET:b



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mr. Elliott Thurston, Special Assistant to  
Chairman of Board of Governors,  
Federal Reserve System,  
Washington, D. C.

St. Louis, Mo., March 19, 1943.

Dear Mr. Thurston: Thank you for your letter of March 17th advising that Mr. Eccles is away from Washington. I particularly want him to read the card I sent him and I will appreciate his personal reply. People of importance, who go about the Country making speeches, should weigh all angles and speak accordingly--how can low-income workers afford a 30% income tax? All they can afford is the 1941 tax rate for both 1942 and 1943 incomes. Gabriel Heatter in his radio talk of March 17th seems to be the only one aware of what we are going through. (that is why there will be a Republican sweep next election--can't be any worse than it is and perhaps it will be better for us). I can't even afford that \$6.00 monthly for taxes--that's the point I am making & millions are in the same fix. This has nothing to do with patriotism.

(Miss) Helen Newman,