

Marie Bliss  
5652 Cates Avenue  
St. Louis 12, Missouri

November 2, 1947

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

Dear Mr. Eccles:

You merit the gratitude of the nation for the suggestion made in your speech of September 25 before the Supervisors of State Banks, in which you said: "It may be we could spend less on military forces if more were spent on maintaining conditions on which democracy and peace depend." It is good to hear your authoritative voice added to those of others who are trying to impress this truth upon the minds of Americans.

You have laid your finger upon a malady which, if not healed, will only compound our present disasters: the alarming penetration of militarism and of the philosophy of force into our educational, economic and administrative life, affecting both our domestic and our foreign policies.

George Fielding Eliot has warned that in a "small or medium-sized state" freedom can be destroyed by the Police State in just one year. Considering certain grim developments in our own country: the fact that the military branches had control of about 80 per cent of some \$600,000,000 spent by the Government for scientific research and development last fiscal year; the pressure for conscription; and the threats to freedom of thought; one trembles to think how far we may be along this road.

Friedelind Wagner, grand-daughter of the composer and now an American citizen, said on the same day that you made your speech, that re-education in Germany has failed because the Americans and the British have overlooked the traditional set-up of German schools, which breed either tyrants or automations. This is also the traditional set-up of militarism.

May we venture to hope that you will keep on reiterating your views until the nation reaches a more healthful state of mind.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Bliss.

I'm sending copies to  
my representative - Mr. Ploeser -  
and others.

November 7, 1947.

Dear Miss Bliss:

This is to thank you for your letter of November 2 with regard to my recent talk to the Supervisors of State Banks.

It is pleasant and gratifying to have your favorable comment and I appreciate your taking the trouble to write to me as well as to your Representative in Congress and others.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,  
Chairman.

ET:ra

Miss Marie Bliss,  
5652 Gates Avenue,  
St. Louis 12, Missouri.