

ADDRESS BY M. S. ECCLES AT UNVEILING CEREMONIES OF THE PAINTING OF  
CONGRESSMAN HENRY STEAGALL, AT CAPITOL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1942

It is very gratifying to me to be asked to join in paying homage to my good friend, Henry Steagall, though the three minutes allotted to me to review his extended and useful public career and pay tribute to his great human qualities are scarcely adequate. I should at least have as much time as the keynoter at a great national convention.

Ever since I came to the Federal Reserve Board, Henry Steagall has been Chairman of the very powerful Banking and Currency Committee of the House. Time and again I have sat in the well of his august committee room, under his gavel, while his associates have plied me with questions on almost every subject under the sun, some of them touching now and then on matters of banking and currency.

He has always been gracious and kind to me, as is his nature and habit. I am deeply indebted to him for the patience, wise counsel and guidance he afforded me at the time of the Banking Act of 1935 and on many subsequent occasions. Even when he has failed to see eye to eye with me during momentary lapses of his usual high statesmanship, he has invariably turned me down so charmingly and gracefully, with such unfailing southern courtesy and consideration, that I have felt no pain -- at least not while in his radiant presence.

The felicitous speeches which have been prepared for this occasion testify to the fact that Henry Steagall is a national figure and a splendid public servant. No portrait of him, however inspired, can of course radiate his personality or speak his quiet words of wisdom. Hence, I shall continue to consult Henry in person while I respectfully salute his likeness on canvas. May they both long endure.

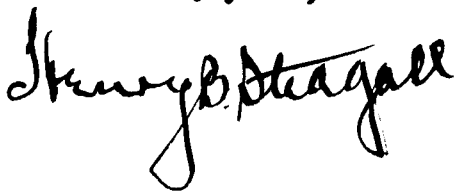
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 17, 1942

Dear Governor:

It was kind and considerate of you to lend your presence to the occasion of the unveiling of my portrait. Your speech was greatly appreciated, not only by me but by all present. I want you to know I am deeply grateful and I shall cherish with pride your contribution to this happy occasion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry B. Steagall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "H".