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Dlgb 9-3300

March 29, 1949

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

Dear Marriner -

I did not hear until this morning, as I have been away for several weeks, of the conduct of the group which you addressed here in New York to an extent at least because I asked you to.

May, our Vice President, tells me that he was booed when introduced and that the conduct of the audience during your address was disgraceful.


This is the most surprising thing I have ever heard because only three or four years ago I was rather closely identified with the entire group personally, and when I was introduced year after year the applause for our company was embarrassing because of its volume in comparison with that which greeted most of the others.

Something has changed the character of the entire organization and I am told that a very radical change has taken place in the type of membership because of drives which have been held and the new group at the Association headquarters.

I want you to know how deeply and sincerely I regret anything of this kind and particularly for a man of your stature and national reputation, which is second to none in the field of credit.

If I have a chance the next time I am in Washington I want to see you because then I will know more about what happened than I do now, and I always thoroughly enjoy being with you.

Sincerely yours,


PRESIDENT
A. D. Whiteside

ADW.EMK.

March 30, 1949.

Dear Arthur:

I am sorry I did not get to see you when you were in Washington today. I was rushing to get my desk cleared before catching a plane late this afternoon.

I appreciate receiving your letter of March 29, which was received today. I hope you will not be disturbed because of the meeting. It was a very large group and some of the boys had been drinking a little too freely before dinner and were not in a mood for a discussion on serious matters, but, generally speaking, the audience was responsive and attentive. I was not bothered too much by the diversions. I am sure they worried some of the others more than they did me.

I hope the next time you are in Washington you will let me know and will have lunch with me if it can be mutually arranged.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles.

Mr. Arthur Whiteside, President,
Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.,
290 Broadway,
New York 8, New York.

(Note): Mr. Eccles dictated this letter before he left, but did not have an opportunity to sign it personally.)

VLE:ra