

March 5, 1945.

Honorable Elbert D. Thomas,  
United States Senate,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

It occurred to me that you might be interested in seeing the full text of the statement which I gave out to clarify the proposal which I made when unexpectedly questioned recently at Banking and Currency Committee hearings in regard to the inflationary dangers affecting capital assets, particularly farms and homes.

Because I know you are interested in the subject, I am taking the liberty of sending this to you, together with a copy of a rather remarkable letter I received from an army sergeant in connection with this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,  
Chairman.

Enclosures 2

ET:b  


March 5, 1945.

Honorable Claude R. Wickard,  
Secretary of Agriculture,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Claude:

Because of your interest in the matter, it occurred to me that you might wish to see the full text of a statement which I gave out to correct the widespread misunderstanding as well as misrepresentation of the special wartime capital gains tax proposal which I advocated when I was unexpectedly questioned recently by members of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee as to what could be done to curb the inflationary rise in the prices of homes, farms, stocks, and other capital assets.

Accordingly, I am enclosing a copy for your information, together with a copy of a most illuminating letter I received from an army sergeant in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures 2

ET:b)

Identical letter sent to all members of the Economic Stabilization Board, with the exception of Judge Vinson and Mr. Bell, to whom letters were sent on 3/2/45.

March 5, 1945.

Honorable Fred L. Crawford,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Fred:

I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of a statement I have issued in order to clear up widespread misunderstanding about the special wartime capital gains tax which I suggested when I was unexpectedly questioned on this subject in the course of the hearings recently before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee on the gold reserve requirement bill.

I would not bother you with this except that I know how deeply interested you are in the whole subject of controlling these inflationary dangers, which particularly threaten the unprotected areas of capital values, especially farms and homes. Enclosed also is a copy of a rather striking letter I received from an army sergeant, which you might also be interested in reading.

Sincerely yours,

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 ET:b

March 5, 1945.

Honorable Abe Murdock,  
United States Senate,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Abe:

As you will recall, I was unexpectedly questioned, when before the Banking and Currency Committee recently, about what could be done to stop the inflationary rise of capital values, particularly of farms, homes and stocks. Inasmuch as my proposal of a special wartime capital gains tax was widely misunderstood and misrepresented, I decided to give out an explanatory statement, copy of which I am enclosing because I thought you might be interested in having the full text for I know of your concern with this entire subject. I am not taking the liberty of sending the statement to members of the Committee generally, but only to those who indicated a special interest in the matter.

I am also enclosing a copy of a rather remarkable letter on this subject which I received from an army sergeant.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures 2

ET:b

March 5, 1945.

Honorable Robert H. Hinckley,  
Director,  
Office of Contract Settlement,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Because I know you are interested in and concerned about the matter, I am venturing to send you a copy of a statement I decided to give out explaining why I feel it is so essential to put on a stiff wartime capital gains tax to curb the speculative activity in farms, homes, stocks and other capital assets.

I am also enclosing a copy of a most striking letter I received from an army sergeant in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures 2

 ET:b

March 7, 1945.

Mr. Reuben A. Lewis, Jr.,  
Editor and Publisher,  
Finance Magazine,  
608 South Dearborn Street,  
Chicago 5, Illinois.

Dear Rube:

I thought in your issue of February 25 you presented very succinctly and ably the highlights of the Chairman's testimony on bank holdings of securities, interest rates, and the capital gains tax suggestion which, like so many expedients, is not all black or white, but one of those alternatives you have to weigh carefully. It occurred to me you might not have seen the subsequent statement he put out on this latter subject and I am, accordingly, enclosing a copy.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

ET:b