

ALEX BERGER
900-901 LASALLE BUILDING
509 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

May 5, 1945.

Mr. Marriner S. Eccles,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

According to a recent article in The Wall Street Journal you are in favor of taxing gains from capital assets held over 6 months @ 90%.

I bought controlling stock of a small bank at considerably above the market price and was active head of it 4 years. I sold that stock in Feb. 1945. Dividends were modest compared to earnings, always at the suggestion of the Federal reserve bank. Now you propose that I keep a small part of those earnings?

Why not with equal justice, suggest that all interest be stopped on Government bonds or put a 10% or 25% flat tax on all real estate. I have never seen the Building, but I understand the front of the Supreme Court in Washington has inscribed on it, "with equal justice to all".

Very truly yours,



May 8, 1945.

Mr. Alex Berger,
900-901 LaSalle Building,
509 Olive Street,
St. Louis 1, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Berger:

This is to acknowledge your letter of May 5, from which I gather that you have been misinformed in regard to my proposal for a wartime capital gains tax. The transaction to which you refer would not be affected in any case.

I enclose a copy of an explanatory statement, from which you will see that my suggestion would not apply in the case of capital assets purchased prior to January 1 of this year, or such other cut-off date as Congress might determine, if such a tax should be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

Enclosure

ET:b

ALEX BERGER
900-901 LABALLE BUILDING
509 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

May 14, 1945.

Mr. M.S. Eccles, Chairman,
Federal Reserve System,
Washington 25.

Dear Mr. Eccles:

The brief article in the newspaper cited gave me a wrong slant on your proposal for a war time capital gains tax. Just so long as people may know what to expect, any kind of tax would be acceptable so far as I am concerned.

Since you do not advocate going further back than Jan. 1945 there can be no objection on my part to your proposed legislation.

I appreciate your letter and the printed information attached.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Berger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Alex Berger".