One of the very distinct privileges of the office of the Presidency of the American Bankers Association is to welcome you to this Tenth Annual Monetary Conference of the American Bankers Association. Two of the ten conferences have been held abroad; one in London and the other in Rome last year.

The original purpose of the first Monetary Conference held in March 1954 was to bring together into one comparatively small meeting, the heads of the leading commercial banks in the United States, Treasury and Federal Reserve officials, outstanding economists, and distinguished guests from other countries, where they could frankly discuss the major monetary and economic problems confronting the United States and other nations of the world. It was hoped that those attending the Conference would increase their understanding of these important problems as a result of the exchange of ideas, off-the-record panels, and the friendly give and take of informal discussions.

The purpose of this tenth Conference could well be described in precisely the same terms. Even the format for this meeting is much like that of that first Conference.

Our Program Committee under the able leadership of Gabriel Hauge has again given a great deal of time and thought to the selection of subjects, speakers, and panels. It is hoped that this year you will again find the Conference stimulating, interesting, and instructive. I urge you to participate actively in the discussion.