

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK**

Fiscal Agent of the United States

[ Circular No. 3898 ]  
[ September 23, 1952 ]

**COUNTERFEIT TREASURY CHECKS**

*To all Banks in the Second Federal Reserve District:*

The Treasury Department has requested us to bring to your attention the existence of certain counterfeit checks in punch card form which purport to be checks drawn on the Treasurer of the United States by Paul D. Banning, Chief Disbursing Officer, Treasury Department, payable through any Federal Reserve Bank. The object for which such checks purport to be drawn is "Special Dividend—National Service Life Insurance—Veterans Administration," and the symbol number appearing in the lower right-hand corner is 321.

The counterfeit varies from a genuine Treasury check in many of its details. The most apparent variations, according to information furnished by the Treasury Department, are the following:

*Surface tint*

The color of the surface tint on the face and reverse is olive green whereas the genuine color is blue green. The difference in color is not so great that it would be recognized readily when the counterfeit is considered alone, but when a counterfeit is compared with a genuine check the difference is apparent.

*Surface design on face*

The quality of the printing in the surface design is poor. The word "Treasury" in the perimeters of the interlocking circles and the monogram "US" within the space formed by each set of three circles are barely legible.

*Treasury seal*

The closely spaced lines surrounding the shield in the seal are broken, but these lines are continuous in the genuine. The printed impression of the counterfeit seal is heavier in one area and lighter in another, whereas in the genuine the printing is uniform.

*Printing on check form*

All printing on the counterfeit reproduces the letter forms of the genuine but with less sharpness. This is apparent upon direct comparison with a genuine check.

*Serial number*

The serial number, which was not printed as part of the check form, lacks commas and is smaller and of a different style of type from the genuine.

*Facsimile signature*

The matter in the border surrounding the facsimile signature is not sharply defined. The star in the lower right-hand corner of the border is appreciably larger than the star in the same position in the genuine border.

An Act of Congress provides that counterfeit Treasury checks shall be forfeited to the United States. The Treasury Department has requested us, therefore, to issue instructions that any counterfeit which you may detect be sent to our Government Check Department without entry. We are required to forward the counterfeit to the Treasurer of the United States; we will furnish you with a photostatic copy for your use, however.

Additional copies of this circular will be furnished upon request.

ALLAN SPROUL,  
*President.*