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ADDRESS REPLY TO
FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

May 27, 1919.

X-1551

Subject: Construction of Vaults by Federal Reserve Banks.

Dear Sir:

The Board is in receipt of the following suggestion with respect to the construction of vaults by Federal Reserve Banks:

"We find as a result of other investigations we have made that there is no concensus of opinion as to what is the proper material out of which to build a vault. In this city the best vaults are built of armor plate, but we are told by some that it is not burglar proof, because the electric torch can cut a hole through armor plate in a short time; others say that this is so theoretically, but that a hole sufficiently large cannot be cut in heavy armor plate under conditions under which burglars would have to work. Manganese steel is recommended by some, and laminated steel plates by others. It is recommended, generally, that all vaults be protected by a covering of concrete, reinforced with steel, but there are very decided differences of opinion as to the proper thickness of this covering. As nearly every Federal Reserve Bank will have to build a vault and will want to have it built of the best material and in the best way to provide the maximum amount of protection, would it not be well to have a commission appointed to investigate the matter of material and form of construction, and so avoid the necessity and expense of every bank doing it?"

Will you please communicate to Consulting Architect Trowbridge any suggestions that you may have to make on this topic, in order that he may make a proper study and recommendation to the Board in the premises.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

THIS LETTER SENT TO ALL CHAIRMEN EXCEPT PHILADELPHIA.