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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

EDWIN G. NOURSE, CHAIRMAN
LEON H. KEYSERLING, VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN D. CLARK

September 9, 1949

Dear Mr. President:

On August 9, I wrote you urging early action on my resignation, submitted on December 14, 1948. I have not had any direct response from you to this letter, but Mr. Steelman informed me on August 11 that the only question which would be involved was that of timing of the announcement of my retirement. He said you desired to name my successor at the same time that you announced my resignation. You could thus avoid pressure on behalf of persons whom you would not care to consider for appointment.

In accordance with this suggestion, I have not mentioned my pending retirement even to my colleagues on the Council. This has caused some delay in organizing our program of work and our staff arrangements between now and the Economic Report in January. My relations are rendered ambiguous and awkward also with reference to Mr. Pace and Budget discussions, and Mr. Souers and the deliberations of the National Security Council. I feel that I should not appear before these other agencies as spokesman for the Council of Economic Advisers without their knowing that I am retiring within the next few weeks.

If the work of the Council is to be kept from serious demoralization, I feel that I shall need to inform Mr. Keyserling, Mr. Clark, Mr. Pace, and Mr. Souers by Wednesday or Thursday of next week that I shall be leaving not later than November 1. I shall of course emphasize that this information is confidential, and I trust there will be no leak before you are ready to make your announcement of my successor.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

The President
The White House