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The Brookings Institution

Washington 6, D. C.

722 JACKSON PLACE, N

February 7, 1955

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RECEIVED

FEB - 9 1955

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY  
 OF THE  
 FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Miss Mildred Adams  
 Committee on the History of  
 the Federal Reserve System  
 33 Liberty Street  
 New York 45, New York

Dear Miss Adams:

I have gone over the draft of your report for publicity purposes.  
 Here are my comments and suggestions.

1. I question the advisability of following the organization which you have employed in reviewing historically the pilot project, the banking history project, etc. This form of presentation stresses the evolution of the project, but leaves the reader none too certain regarding the precise character and purpose of the project. I would suggest that you start with a declarative announcement of the existence and purposes of the Committee, then return to a review of the pilot project; then review work in progress and plans for the future.

2. I am not happy over the references to Brookings. On page 1 it is said that the Institution provides office facilities and assistance, and parenthetically, "has a joint interest in the project." On page 2 the statement says that the principal grant, like the pilot grant, was "for administrative reasons put into the hands of Brookings." This sounds as though the function of Brookings is merely to provide a good address--a practice, I may say, which my Trustees are most ardently against. The facts which need to be stressed seem to me to be that the original grant was made for a cooperative undertaking between the Committee and Brookings and that the subsequent grant was likewise for a cooperative study in which, according to the agreement between the Committee and the Institution, both parties were to assume "joint responsibility for the administration of the proposed project." Possibly the most satisfactory way of dealing with this problem would be to make the statement a joint announcement of the Committee and the Institution, and in the statement indicate that the project is carried on jointly by the Committee and the Institution, or

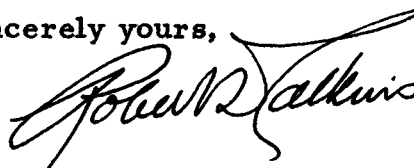
that it is one carried on by the Committee in cooperation with the Institution. If this language is not satisfactory, then possibly some other way of stating it can be found.

3. In view of the possibility that the historian may be appointed within the very near future, I would think it inadvisable to issue this announcement until the historian has been appointed. He may wish to stress certain matters that should go into the statement.

4. My last question relates to the section on research grants and stipends. I am fearful that this announcement will result in a flood of applications from graduate students asking grants for the writing of their dissertations. It will also result in a very considerable number of applications for positions from younger members of the profession. I base this expectation on the inquiries and applications we have had here as the result of a brief statement that Ed Shaw is spending the next three years at Brookings on a study of Trends in Commercial Banking. This statement appeared in the "Notes" of American Economic Review and we have had a large number of inquiries - oral and written - from people who would like to associate themselves with the project or the Institution. Most of them, of course, are not good prospects.

I would suggest instead that the announcement state that the project will, or hopes to, arrange for contributions by a number of scholars in the field, and that it will be glad to cooperate in any way it can in facilitating the research of others in this general field.

Sincerely yours,



President

Enclosure

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Pilot Project

A Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System was set up in January, 1954 under a small grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, for the purpose of locating, assembling, and evaluating source materials - hitherto inaccessible and widely scattered - which might be drawn on for a comprehensive study or series of studies on the formation and subsequent development of Reserve banking in the United States. It was felt that such an exploration might bring to light, and preserve for students of American financial history, important collections of private papers, records, and documents on deposit both within the Reserve System itself and outside it. Also, this search might perform a valuable service in tapping the memories of the thinning ranks of retired Reserve System and Treasury officials.

During this initial phase, from January to June 1954, the central Committee consisted of the following members:

Allan Sproul, Chairman	President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
W. Randolph Burgess	Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs
Robert D. Calkins	President, Brookings Institution
William McC. Martin, Jr.	Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Walter W. Stewart	Member, Council of Economic Advisers
Donald B. Woodward	Chairman of Finance Committee and Director, Vick Chemical Company

Miss Mildred Adams was engaged by the Committee as Research Director for the pilot project; office facilities and assistance were provided by the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Brookings Institution which has a joint interest in the project.

Banking History Project

On the basis of the findings during this pilot phase, the Rockefeller Foundation approved the Committee's application for a second and larger grant. This, like the pilot grant, was, for administrative reasons, put into the hands of Brookings. It will run for five years.

With that longer life ahead, the Committee has broadened its membership and its scope, adding to its six original members the names of Dr. F. Cyril James, monetary historian, Principal and Vice Chancellor of McGill University, and Dr. Joseph H. Willits, now at the University of Pennsylvania. The research activities of its staff, designed to furnish a central system of reference information for the use of qualified students of American financial history, continue. The Committee is now encouraging the inquiries of economists interested in undertaking the actual writing of historical studies on the Reserve System.

One special study has been completed, and another is under way. A first step was taken in the processing of private papers bearing on System history through the employment of Dr. Elbert A. Kincaid, Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia and a former vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. With the assistance of three graduate students, Dr. Kincaid has classified at the University Library the unbound Carter Glass papers which bear on this field. His selective inventory is now in the hands of the Committee.

The second study to be commissioned concerns the activities and the influence of Benjamin Strong, first Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as a central banker. Professor Lester V. Chandler of Princeton University has been selected by the Committee to do this work.

Archival Materials

The Committee is confident that a wealth of Reserve System materials, now buried in the files of the Reserve Board and the individual Reserve Banks, can be organized and opened to research workers of established competence under a system of clearance to be fostered by this Committee. In addition to coverage of important materials reposing in the Library of Congress, the Committee would like to have for its central catalogue of source materials information about any collections of private papers, relevant to research on the history of the Federal Reserve System, which are in the possession of university libraries, banking institutions, or private individuals. Correspondence on this subject will be welcomed.

Research Grants and Stipends

To encourage research in the field of American banking history since the first World War and the promotion of public knowledge of our financial system, the Committee intends also to make ~~certain~~ *a limited number of* research grants. The staff is building up a roster of names to include both faculty members of recognized ability in the field of monetary economics and recommended graduate students who might be called upon by the Committee for special studies to be done under the Committee's auspices. For information relating to this program, inquiries should be addressed to The Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System, 33 Liberty Street, New York 45, New York. Individuals who would like their names considered for inclusion in the roster are asked to communicate with this Committee at their earliest convenience.

PRINCIPAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNALS

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|--|--|--|
| 1. AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW<br>Quarterly                           | Prof. Bernard F. Haley, Editor<br>c/o American Economic Assn.<br>Stanford University<br>Palo Alto, California                          | For "Communica-<br>tions" Section  |
|  | Also to: Prof. James W. Bell<br>Secretary-Treasurer<br>Northwestern University<br>Evanston, Illinois                                   | For announcement<br>at end-December<br>meeting of Execu-<br>tive Committee |
| 2. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS<br>AND SOCIOLOGY<br>Quarterly     | Robert Schalkenbach Foundation<br>50 East 69th Street<br>New York 21, New York   |  |
| 3. ECONOMETRICA<br>Quarterly                                       | Econometric Society<br>The University of Chicago<br>Chicago 37, Illinois   |  |
| 4. HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW<br>Quarterly                            | Harvard Business School<br>Soldiers Field<br>Boston 63, Massachusetts  |  |
| 5. JOURNAL OF BUSINESS<br>Quarterly.                               | University of Chicago<br>Chicago 37, Illinois  |  |
| 6. JOURNAL OF FINANCE  | Dr. Marshall D. Ketchum, Editor<br>American Finance Association<br>School of Business<br>University of Chicago<br>Chicago 37, Illinois |  |
| 7. JOURNAL OF POLITICAL<br>ECONOMY<br>Bi-Monthly                   | Prof. Earl J. Hamilton, Editor<br>The University of Chicago<br>Chicago 37, Illinois  |  |
| 8. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN<br>STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION<br>Quarterly | 1603 K Street, N. W.<br>Washington 6, D. C.  |  |
| 9. QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS<br>Quarterly                     | Prof. E. H. Chamberlin, Editor<br>M-12 Littauer Center<br>Cambridge 38, Massachusetts  |  |
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10. REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS  
Quarterly
- Prof. S. E. Harris, Editor  
Harvard University  
325 Littauer Center  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts
- 
11. SOCIAL RESEARCH  
Quarterly
- Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science  
New School of Social Research  
66 W. 12th Street  
New York City
- 
12. SOUTHERN ECONOMIC JOURNAL
- Southern Economic Association  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
-

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC HISTORY JOURNALS

I. UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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AGRICULTURAL HISTORY Quarterly	Agricultural History Society U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics Department of Agriculture Washington 25, D. C.
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BULLETIN Quarterly EXPLORATIONS IN ENTREPRENEUR- IAL HISTORY	Business Historical Society, Inc. Harvard Business School Baker Library Soldiers Field, Boston 63, Mass.
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CANADIAN HISTORICAL REVIEW	University of Toronto Press Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE Quarterly	Johns Hopkins Press Baltimore 18, Maryland	See Special Note below
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JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY Semi-Annually	Economic History Association New York University Press New York 3, New York	See SPECIAL NOTE BELOW T. C. Cochran Ralph W. Hidy
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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY Quarterly	Mississippi Valley Historical Assn. Lincoln 1, Nebraska
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SOUTHWESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY	Southwestern Social Science Assn. University of Oklahoma Norman, Oklahoma
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ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC HISTORY REVIEW	Economic History Society A. and C. Black, Ltd. 4 Soho Square, London, W. 1, England
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NOTE: A new section on "Comments and Criticisms" (similar to the A.E.R. section on "Communications") is to be inaugurated beginning with the Winter issue for 1955. News of new research materials and activities will be accepted, subject to a limitation of 700 words.



## OTHER HISTORICAL JOURNALS

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### I. GENERAL AND CURRENT HISTORY JOURNALS

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|--|---|
| 1. AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW<br>Quarterly       | American Historical Association<br>Macmillan Co.<br>6 North 6th Street<br>Richmond, Virginia                  |
| 2. CURRENT HISTORY<br>Monthly                    | Events Publishing Co., Inc.<br>108 Walnut Street<br>Philadelphia 6, Pa.                                       |
| 3. JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY<br>Quarterly        | University of Chicago Press<br>5750 Ellis Avenue<br>Chicago 37, Illinois                                      |
| 4. JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY<br>Quarterly      | Southern Historical Assn.<br>Louisiana State University<br>Baton Rouge, La.                                   |
| 5. NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY                         | Bowdoin University<br>Hubbard Hall<br>New Brunswick, Maine  |
| 6. PACIFIC HISTORICAL REVIEW<br>Quarterly        | American Historical Assn.<br>Pacific Coast Branch<br>University of California Press<br>Berkeley 4, California |
| 7. PACIFIC NORTHWEST QUARTERLY                   | University of Washington<br>Seattle 5, Washington   |
| 8. SOUTH ATLANTIC QUARTERLY<br>(Mainly literary) | Duke University Press<br>Durham, North Carolina   |
| 9. SOUTHWEST REVIEW<br>Quarterly (Literary)      | Methodist University Press<br>Dallas, Texas   |
| 10. YALE REVIEW (Literary)                       | Yale University Press<br>New Haven 7, Connecticut   |
| 11. SOUTHWESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE<br>QUARTERLY     | Southwestern Social Science Assn.<br>University of Oklahoma<br>Norman, Oklahoma                               |
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BANKING, BUSINESS, AND FINANCIAL PERIODICALS

I  
AMERICAN

AMERICAN AFFAIRS Semi-monthly	National Industrial Conference Bd. 247 Park Avenue New York 17, New York	
BANKING Monthly	American Bankers Association 12 East 36th Street New York 16, New York	
BURROUGHS CLEARING HOUSE Monthly	Burroughs Adding Machine Co. 2nd and Burroughs Avenues Detroit 32, Michigan	
BUSINESS WEEK Weekly	McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. 330 West 42nd Street New York 18, New York	
COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL CHRONICLE Weekly	William B. Dana Co. 25 Park Place New York 7, New York	
FEDERAL RESERVE BULLETIN Monthly	Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Washington 25, D. C.	
FORTUNE Monthly	Time & Life Building Rockefeller Center New York 20, New York	
FINANCE Semi-monthly	20 N. Wacker Drive Chicago 6, Illinois	
MID-WESTERN BANKER Monthly	Bankers Publishing Co. 757 N. Water Street Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin	
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT Weekly	1241 24th Street, N.W. Washington, D. C.	David Lawrence, Editor

SELECTED FOREIGN LIST

THE BANKER Monthly	72 Coleman Street London, E.C. 2, England
THE ECONOMIST Weekly	Economist Newspaper, Ltd. <del>8 Lancaster Place</del> 22, Ryder St. St James's London, W.C. 2, England SW 1
INSTITUTE OF BANKERS JOURNAL Quarterly	Blades, East and Blades, Ltd. 17 Abchurch Lane London, E. C. 4, England
THE STATIST Weekly	Statist Co., Ltd. 51 Cannon Street London, E.C. 4, England

SELECTED FOREIGN ECONOMIC JOURNALS

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS  
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
Quarterly

Canadian Political Science Assn.  
273 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Onta., Canada

ECONOMIC JOURNAL  
Quarterly

Royal Economic Society  
Marshall Library  
Downing Street  
Cambridge, England

Editors:  
Roy F. Harrod  
E. A. G. Robinson

ECONOMIC RECORD  
Quarterly

Economic Society of Australia  
and New Zealand  
Melbourne University  
Melbourne N. 3, Australia

ECONOMICA

London School of Economics  
Houghton Street  
Aldwych  
London, W. C. 2, England

R. S. Sayers  
L. C. Robbins

REVUE D'ECONOMIE POLITIQUE

22 Rue Soufflot  
Paris, France

Chas. Rist

SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF  
ECONOMICS

P. O. Box 5316  
Johannesburg  
South Africa

POLITICAL SCIENCE JOURNALS

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<u>Journal</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
1. AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW	American Political Science Assn. University of Wisconsin Madison 6, Wisconsin	Quarterly
2. POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY	Academy of Political Science Columbia University New York 27, New York	Quarterly
3. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REVIEW	American Society for Public Administration 1313 East 60th Street Chicago 37, Illinois	Quarterly
4. PUBLIC OPINION QUARTERLY	Princeton University Princeton, New Jersey	Quarterly

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SELECTED LIST OF STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNALS

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ATLANTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN Irregular	Atlanta Historical Society Peters Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY	456 McAllister Street San Francisco 2, California
GEORGIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY	Georgia Historical Society Savannah, Ga.
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL (Quarterly)	Springfield, Illinois
INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY (Quarterly)	Indiana University and Indiana Historical Society Bloomington, Indiana
KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY	Kansas State Historical Society Topeka, Kansas
MINNESOTA HISTORY	Minnesota Historical Society Central Ave. and Cedar Street St. Paul 1, Minn.
MISSOURI HISTORICAL REVIEW	State Historical Society of Missouri Columbia, Missouri
NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY	Central Park W. and 77th Street New York 24, New York
NOW AND THEN (Quarterly)	Muncy Historical Society Muncy, Pa.
NORTHWEST OHIO QUARTERLY	Toledo, Ohio
PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY	Historical Society of Pennsylvania 1300 Locust Street Philadelphia, Pa.
RHODE ISLAND HISTORY	Rhode Island Historical Society Providence, R. I.

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM ← center

Pilot Project:

more #

A Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System was set up in January, 1954, under a small grant of ~~20,000~~ from the Rockefeller Foundation, for the purpose of locating, assembling, and evaluating source materials--hitherto inaccessible and widely scattered--which might be drawn on for a comprehensive study or series of studies on the formation and subsequent development of Reserve banking over the past four decades. It was felt that such an exploration might bring to light, and preserve for present and future generations of students of American financial history, important collections of private papers, records, and documents on deposit <sup>both</sup> within the Reserve System itself and <sup>it</sup> outside ~~on deposit with private institutions or individuals~~ <sup>Also this search</sup> and might perform a valuable service ~~also~~ in tapping the memories of the thinning ranks of <sup>retired</sup> ~~older~~ Reserve System and former Treasury officials.

During this initial phase, from January to June 1954, the central Committee consisted of the following members:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Allan Sproul, Chairman        | President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York                |
| W. Randolph Burgess           | Under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs       |
| Robert D. Calkins             | President, Brookings Institution                           |
| William McC. Martin, Jr.      | Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System |
| Walter W. Stewart             | Member, Council of Economic Advisers                       |
| Donald B. Woodward, Secretary | Chairman of Finance Committee, Vick Chemical Company       |

Miss Mildred Adams was engaged by the Committee as Research Director for the pilot project; ~~and~~ office facilities and assistance were provided by the <sup>Federal Reserve Board</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of New York and <sup>the</sup> Brookings Institution. ~~In view of the limited term of the initial grant, Miss Adams concentrated in her quest for materials on the internal files and libraries of the Reserve Board and of the Reserve Banks in New York and nearby Reserve Districts. She also conducted a series of interviews with many active and retired System officials~~

and has sought collections of privately held materials from individuals or the estates of individuals who were active in the formative years of the Reserve System.

Main Project:

On the basis of the findings during this pilot phase, the Rockefeller Foundation approved the Committee's application for a second and longer term grant of \$310,000, <sup>put, like the first, into the hands of Brookings which acts in a</sup> to run for a period of five years from June, 1954. The Committee has broadened its membership <sup>and hence its scope</sup> ~~by adding Dr. Cyril James, vice Chancellor of McGill University, and Dr. (economic historian) and is now undertaking a program of action and expects to increase the momentum of its activities in the months ahead.~~ It is now in process of engaging, under a series of subgrants to individuals, ~~a number of outside professional economists who will undertake the actual writing of historical studies on the Reserve System. Miss Adams is continuing as Research Director, with a small independent staff selected by Brookings Institution with the approval of the Committee.~~ The selection of a writer or writers for the overall study is under consideration now by the Committee and a decision is expected before the end of this year. ~~At this stage, only~~ <sup>abstract</sup> one special study is under way. Professor Lester V. Chandler of Princeton University has been selected by the Committee to do a study on Ben Strong: Central Banker under a two-year contract. A beginning has also been made in the processing of private collections of papers through the employment of the ~~National Records Management Council and of~~ Dr. E. A. Kincaid, Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia and a former Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, <sup>with the assistance of several graduate students on the Carter Glass papers at the University library.</sup> ~~with the assistance of several graduate students on the Carter Glass papers at the University library.~~

The Committee is ~~anxious~~ <sup>hoping</sup> now ~~to move~~ forward with its program of setting up a central system of records for the use of qualified students ~~of~~ American financial history and with its sponsorship of particular pieces of research .

### 1. Archival Materials

The Committee is confident that a wealth of Reserve System materials, now buried in the files of the Reserve Board and the individual Reserve Banks, can be organized and opened to research workers of established competence under a system of clearance to be set up by this Committee. In addition to coverage of important materials reposing in the Library of Congress, the Committee would like to have information for its central catalogue of source materials of any collections of private papers which are in the possession of university libraries, banking institutions, of private individuals which are relevant to research on the history of the Federal Reserve System.

### 2. Research Grants and Stipends

In the encouragement of research in the field of American banking history since the first World War and the promotion of public knowledge of our financial system, the Committee intends to make a number of research grants, in addition to building up a central pool and catalogue of basic materials. It hopes to make a limited number of grants to academic economists of recognized ability to aid in the execution of their research and also to extend moderate grants to outstanding graduate students to enable them to participate in this program. The Committee is therefore interested in building up a roster of names of both faculty members and recommended graduate students who might be called upon by the Committee for special studies to be done under the Committee's auspices. For information relating to this program,



inquiries should be addressed to The Committee on the History of the Federal Reserve System, Room 11 , 33 Liberty Street, New York 45, New York. Individuals who are interested in being considered for inclusion in the roster are asked to communicate with this Committee not later than March 1, 1955.

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK**

**ROUTE SLIP**



DATE 10/26/54

TO Miss Adams

OF \_\_\_\_\_

FROM K. McKinstry

**REMARKS**

## COMMITTEE LETTERHEAD

Date

Professor \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Department of Economics  
\_\_\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Professor \_\_\_\_\_:

The above Committee would like to bring to the attention of your faculty members and doctoral candidates having a special interest in monetary-fiscal problems and in American banking and financial history the program of research which it is inaugurating under a five-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, which is to be administered by the Brookings Institution.

While the basic framework of the major historical work and the subsidiary special studies, biographies, and volumes of collected papers which are being contemplated has not been advanced beyond the stage of internal discussion, the Committee wishes to make this preliminary announcement in order to enlist the cooperation and active support of monetary economists and financial historians in our leading colleges and universities. The Committee would greatly appreciate anything you can do to publicize this Committee's program and activities either by reading the enclosed announcement at one of your Departmental meetings and/or by posting it on a bulletin board.

The Committee is proposing (1) to set up a system of central archives and a catalogue of basic source materials which will provide a basis for intensive research on Reserve banking developments over four decades of experience, and (2) to set aside out of its present grant from the Rockefeller Foundation a number of small grants of funds

to finance specific research projects by faculty members and especially qualified graduate students on aspects of Reserve System history. The grants would be extended to faculty members to enable them to make use of the archival materials which the Committee is in process of assembling. Such grants, it is hoped, would enable senior members to take short leaves from teaching to do more intensive work on a particular piece of research and give promising younger men an opportunity to pursue personal projects in which the Committee might have a special interest. They might also be offered to outstanding advanced graduate students who had ~~an~~ especially promising studies under way or who might be fitted in as research assistants to the men who will do the main studies for the Committee. The grants or stipends would be for a term of one to five years and scaled to the individual's requirements for assistance, travel allowances, materials, and relief from teaching. The objective of the Committee is to overcome the signal lacuna which now exists in the field of American financial history and to promote an understanding of our central bank operations and policies over the years since the inception of the Reserve System.

The Committee will be glad to furnish further information to any member of your faculty who requests it and would also be most grateful for any suggestions of names of faculty members or graduate students whose projects or proposed studies fall within the scope of this Committee's field of research.

Sincerely yours,

Research Assistant

Enc.

PERHAPS STRESS MORE CENTRAL POOL OF SOURCE MATERIALS  
AS VALUABLE AID TO CHOSEN SCHOLARS.

KM

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

33 LIBERTY STREET, NEW YORK 45, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: RECTOR 2-5700, EXTENSION 286

*Not Sent*  
Keep as Model - 1B

ALLAN SPROUL, *Chairman*  
W. RANDOLPH BURGESS  
ROBERT D. CALKINS  
F. CYRIL JAMES  
WILLIAM MCC. MARTIN, JR.  
WALTER W. STEWART  
DONALD B. WOODWARD, *Secretary*  
MILDRED ADAMS, *Research Director*

*With cooperation of*  
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION  
722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

October 26, 1954

Dear Professor Bell:

I am not certain whether this inquiry should be addressed to you personally or to the Editor of the American Economic Review. But in any case I should like to consult you as to the best means of bringing to the attention of economists, and particularly of financial historians and teachers of money and banking, the research program which is currently being launched on the history of the Federal Reserve System.

We have up to now delayed a public announcement pending publication of the Annual Report of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has now been released. It seems desirable to give as wide publicity as possible to the objectives of the Committee which is guiding this program of research in cooperation with the Brookings Institution. Such an announcement would undoubtedly facilitate our present quest for basic source materials and in the longer run might foster greater interest and research among university economists and graduate students in the area of economic history which has been relatively neglected.

During the preliminary phase, the activities of the Research Director, Miss Mildred Adams, and her small staff have been largely exploratory. She has spent roughly the past eight months in interviewing persons now or formerly connected with the Reserve System to sample their recollections and enlist their assistance in the collection (for later cataloging) of private papers which would be relevant to a systematic study of the formation and development of the Reserve System. Efforts are also currently being made to locate and list in a central register holdings of private papers of both Treasury and Reserve System officials which are on deposit with the Library of Congress and with other libraries. A third and very important part of the Research Director's explorations have been within the System itself, to discover what materials might be put into a system of central archives which could later on be made available to the selected group of outside scholars who are to do the actual studies on particular aspects of Reserve System and which, with proper safeguards, might be opened to qualified graduate students.

As the work of this Committee gets beyond this initial exploratory stage, we may want to consult many specialists in the field of monetary policy and history within the universities and perhaps, with the help of strategic

grants, encourage more intensive research and the publication of important studies on aspects of Reserve banking.

I am enclosing a brief descriptive statement regarding the grant made by the Rockefeller Foundation, the membership of the steering committee, and other relevant details in a form which might be acceptable for inclusion in the "Notes" section of the next issue of the Review. It might also, if you agree, be worth while to have an item prepared for presentation at the year-end meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association.

Sincerely yours,

*Katharine McKinstry*

Research Assistant

Enc.

Professor James Washington Bell  
Secretary - Treasurer  
American Economic Association  
c/o Department of Economics  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois