

GEORGE LESLIE HARRISON

I. IDENTITY IN FINANCIAL COMMUNITY

New York Life Insurance Company - Director and President (since 1940)
First National Bank of New York - Director
New York State Banking Board - Member (since 1943)
Federal Reserve (prior to 1940)
Federal Reserve Board, Washington - Asst. General Counsel (1914-1918);
General Counsel (1919-1920);
Federal Reserve Bank of New York - Deputy Governor (1920-1928); Governor
(1928-1936); President (1936-1940)
Second Federal Reserve District - Member, Federal Advisory Council

II. HARRISON PERSISTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIS

Harrison Governor of Federal Reserve Bank of New York When it Participated with BIS in Loan to Germany (1931)

In 1931, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was a one-fourth subscriber to a \$100,000,000 emergency credit to Germany which was organized by the BIS. The four participants including the BIS, were not revealed in the annual report of the BIS until two years later. Harrison, who was governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 1931, presumably concluded the negotiations for this credit advanced by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Harrison Attends Meeting of BIS (1934)

In July 1934, when Harrison was making one of his numerous foreign visits, he conferred with international bankers including the directors of the BIS. He came to Basle, it was reported, not as a director but as a guest of Leon Fraser (then President of the BIS), with the knowledge and approval of the Federal Reserve Board at Washington. This was the first time that he had attended a meeting of the Bank. [New York Times, July 1934]

III. HARRISON VISITED SURREPTITIOUSLY BY MONTAGU NORMAN, DIRECTOR OF BIS (1935)

Montagu Norman came to the United States under an assumed name to visit Harrison.

IV. HARRISON CRITICIZED FOR ASSOCIATION WITH BIS

Senator Thomas Protests (1934)

Harrison's attendance at a meeting of the BIS in 1934 evoked considerable public discussion. Senator Thomas, on the basis of allegations that Harrison was attempting to discuss stabilization

plans abroad, cabled him partly as follows:

"As a member of the Congress I protest your assumed authority to meddle in this way. Your viewpoint and your activities do not represent the best interests of our people, and your acts are certain to provoke a demand for a Congressional inquiry." [New York Times, July 1934]

House Comments on Montagu Norman's Visit to Harrison (1935)

During the House debate on the Banking Bill of 1935, Montagu Norman's visit to Harrison caused some comment, although questioning was not pursued too far.

V. HARRISON DOES NOT CHOOSE TO TALK ABOUT BERLIN MEETING WITH SCHACHT (1934)

In 1934, after Harrison attended a BIS meeting, he proceeded to Berlin to talk with Schacht at the Reichsbank. He did not disclose the substance of his conversation. [New York Times, July 1934]

VI. HARRISON'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH BANKERS OF BIS

Since 1928, when it was reported that financial circles approved his election as Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Harrison has had numerous contacts with international bankers, particularly, Montagu Norman and Hjalmar Schacht, and has made numerous trips abroad to consult with these Governors of the central banks of England and Germany. Although these trips occasioned much speculation about their object it was always reported that these were just routine business affairs and that Harrison was ordinarily in weekly telephone contact with the governors of European central banks.