the Paris agreement, unless some steps were taken which would tighten a little bit the U.S. credit market.

If the United States is not willing to have this tightening, this help from the IMF probably would not be available either.

Senator PROXMIRE. My time is up, I see. I would just like to mention that Europe is not more conservative in one important sense. You gentlemen are coming to us asking for a tax cut at a time when we expect an unbalanced budget in the coming year, which will unbalance our budget even further. If I get time a little later, I want to talk to Mr. Day about his assumption that it is a wholly illogical and unjustified desire for budget balance. I happen to be very conservative in this regard.

Representative REUSS. Mr. Curtis.

Representative CURTIS. I had just one thing for the record, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to say the experience of this committee in getting information from the Federal Reserve, I thought, has been very good. I think they have gone out of their way to help us get this information. That very point that was under discussion earlier this year, and I thought we had a pretty good explanation of it. So, if the press has paid attention to the remarks made by the gentleman from Wisconsin, I hope they will go back to the record and I think they will find that the Federal has been pretty good in cooperating with this committee, and I guess others.

Representative REUSS. Would the gentleman yield?

Representative CURTIS. Yes.

Representative REUSS. Did the gentleman know about the agreement with the Swiss National Bank?

Representative CURTIS. I knew that there was an agreement made.

Representative REUSS. Did the gentleman know that it contained what is in effect an exchange guarantee?

Representative CURTIS. I didn't inquire into it, but I am sure had the inquiry been made, perhaps if the gentleman was interested, he could have obtained the information.

Representative REUSS. Is the gentleman aware of the fact that the House Committee on Banking and Currency, in its report on the bill authorizing the United States to participate in the new $6 billion standby agreement of the International Monetary Fund requested the Federal Reserve to inform it of any arrangements that were made?

Representative CURTIS. I am not aware of that. I am not on that committee. I was referring to our experience here. I might say there is something pending right now that worries me greatly about our cooperation in the future in this area. There is one question I would like to ask Dr. Niehans or Dr. Lolli, or both. In our minority views this year on the President's economic report, we made a suggestion which in effect posed what would happen if the United States were no longer to guarantee that it would buy gold at $35 or any other fixed price. Would this lessen speculation in the gold, or how would it affect confidence in the dollar? This speculation seems to have come from the fact that we actually set a price or if we were to buy at $35 and sell at whatever. Is some of our trouble the fact that this is rigid and maybe that very rigidity creates confidence? Do you understand what I am getting at, this fixed price? The same question