

Senator Goldsborough 9/26/39

REMARKS APPROPRIATE FOR BANKERS LUNCHEONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Gentlemen: It is indeed gracious of you to take time from your businesses to honor me in this fashion. Be assured that I appreciate your courtesy and that I deem a privilege to have this opportunity to meet with so many of you informally.

California was home to me during several of the earlier years of my life. Those were happy years, part of the period that saw this State's greatest strides toward the position of economic and cultural eminence it occupies today. It has been 49 years since I left California to return to my native Maryland and many years since I last wandered the hills of San Francisco and reveled in the glory of sunsets seen through the

incomparable frame of the Golden Gate.

My impressions at this return are mixed. I see around me one of the great cities of the world, a metropolis without peer, a hive of commerce and industry that stands as a monument to the initiative, the ability, and the vision of you men and your forebears. Change certainly has occurred - growth and development beyond the wildest dreams of those of us who knew and lived in the San Francisco of the late 80s. But I am delighted to find that the march of material progress has in no way altered the inimitable atmosphere of this city. The love of life, of beauty, and of adventure; the ability to give pleasure and to be pleased even by insignificant things; pride in the bounteous gifts of nature that enrich this area; pride

in the cosmopolitan population of your city and tolerance of the racial and ideological differences that cosmopolitanism involves - these are the essentials of what I remember as the spirit of San Francisco, the things that I had hoped still to find here and that I do now find in a measure more rich than ever before.

One of the happiest periods of my life has been these past five years as a Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. I take great pride in having been privileged to help in the development of that Corporation from its hurried and unprecedented beginnings to its present status as a firmly established, smoothly running agency of



Government and of the banks.

There is little need for me to review here the objectives and the accomplishments of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Our periodic reports to Congress and to insured banks have given you complete descriptions of each successive stage of our development and operations. In addition, many of you last year met on an occasion comparable to this and listened to our Chairman, Mr. Crowley, describe the Corporation's plans and activities. The insured banks of the country are certainly fortunate to have as Chairman of so important an agency as the Corporation a man of Mr. Crowley's unusually varied background of business and financial experience, possessed of rare

administrative ability, endowed with an infinite capacity for getting things done, and gifted with a keen insight into the problems of individual banks and of the whole banking system.

The Corporation has not yet been called upon for financial protection of depositors of any bank west of the Rocky Mountains. You in this section are, therefore, probably not very familiar with the revived and deep-seated confidence in our financial institutions that exists in localities where the depositing public has had a chance to see deposit insurance work out in actual practice. I can assure you that public reaction to the rapid and simple reimbursement of depositors in the 200 insured banks that have failed throughout the country has benefitted

beyond measure the prospects for stability of our financial structure.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has consistently adhered to two principles which I believe to have been indispensable to what success we have achieved. In determining questions of policy it is our established practice to solicit and to give great weight to the opinions of representative bankers from all sections of the country. Much of the confusion and misguided decisions that can be a by-product of bureaucracy thus have fortunately been avoided in our case. Secondly, the Corporation has always adhered to a policy of full and complete frankness in the presentation of its policies, its operations, and its



problems to bankers and to the public. We recognize that the public confidence so necessary to fulfillment of our responsibility will exist only so long as depositors are certain that they are obtaining all pertinent facts.

Beyond these few random remarks I shall not hold you. I reiterate my deep appreciation of this opportunity to meet with you. I extend to each of you my heartiest wishes for well-being and success,

I thank you.

and I want you to know of my deep appreciation of your courtesy and hospitality and of my pleasure, yes, happiness, at again being permitted to visit your incomparable State and City. —