

MIAMI GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES

Remarks By  
Monroe Kimbrel  
April 28, 1978

Ladies and gentlemen, we welcome you here today. To us, there is a definite reason for celebration. The occasion represents the culmination of hundreds of manhours spent in gathering and analyzing data and information; time spent in resolving questions, making judgments; hours spent in committee meetings; efforts made to design a building that will meet our needs--one that will take advantage of advanced technology and systems, and will become a permanent, handsome feature of the community.

The discussions have seemed endless, and the travel tiring and arduous. The members of the Miami Building Committee, under the general direction of the First Vice President of the Bank, have spent many hours in committee, they have written reams of correspondence about the project, and they have traveled between Miami and Atlanta many times, with trips to the Board's offices in Washington sandwiched in between.

We have asked for and received advice from knowledgeable people, including many Floridians, and the advice we received was sound and helpful.

We have received advice and guidance from the staff at the Board of Governors. And, in addition, we have benefited from the counsel of our past-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. H. F. Pattillo, who is extremely knowledgeable in the construction field. He has given unstintingly of his knowledge and experience, and his assistance has been invaluable. Now the baton has passed into the capable hands of our new Chairman of the Board, Mr. Kirtland, and he, without losing step for a moment, is continuing the excellent leadership we are accustomed to.

A careful review has been made of the factors that will influence the efficiency of this new building. The architects' work and planning was done with careful consideration of future space requirements. There have been so many decisions to make, but we feel that none were made hastily and that the finished product will reflect all the good work and effort that has gone into it.

Underlying the judgments made by everyone involved in the building project was the awareness that Miami has become an important international

financial center, and the Federal Reserve System, working for the most part through the Miami Branch, will have an obligation to the 115 member banks in the Miami Branch Zone to see that the responsibilities accorded the System by the Congress are met fully, especially the responsibility of maintaining a free flow of money and checks and credit as this dynamic section of the country continues its growth.

Now, the time for preliminaries is past, and we are at last going into the phase of the project in which we will begin to see physical evidence of all our planning. We feel that the final outcome will be worth the effort. The one-floor building concept is designed to provide for efficiency, easy maintenance, a pleasant atmosphere for the employees of the Branch, and an appropriate addition to the business environment.

The concern and interest in the project shown by our neighbors here in Florida is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to many years of pleasant association and cooperation as we proceed to carry out our responsibilities to the community.

Mr. Pattillo expressed very well our sentiments concerning this new building in a status report made to Governor Coldwell. He said:

"There have been no shortcuts. The research has been thorough. The detail is tedious. The emphasis on efficiency without compromising engineering or quality has demanded the best from some very dedicated people. . . . you will be very proud of the results."