SILAS KEEHN REMARKS IOWA BANKERS ASSN. GROUP 4 CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA MAY 5, 1987

- I. INTRODUCTION DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE
  - A. HAVE TRIED TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME IN IOWA AS MY SCHEDULE
    WOULD PERMIT
    - PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULT ADJUSTMENT
    - PROBLEMS THAT THE BANKS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING

      2. Associates Form Kildery / Franke Servet / Dick Fender

      IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT BILL BERNAU AND BILL TAYLOR

      ARE ALSO ON THIS AGENDA
      - YOU WILL BE HEARING ABOUT BANKING CONDITIONS FROM THE REAL EXPERTS
      - 2. THOUGHT I MIGHT COMMENT ON OUR ECONOMY PUT

        DEVELOPMENTS IN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE
  - C. WE HAVE AND ARE EXPERIENCING SOME VERY FUNDAMENTAL
    CHANGES IN OUR ECONOMY
    - 1. THE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS FOR MANY SECTORS HAS BEEN,
      AND CONTINUES TO BE, VERY DIFFICULT

promote the service B.

- 2. THE MONETARY POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF ALL THIS ARE

  ALSO SIGNIFICANT AS IS EVIDENT FROM PAST FEW DAYS
- II. THE DECADE OF THE '80S HAS BEEN A UNIQUE PERIOD SOME 2-1/2 YEARS TO GO THAT I AM SURE WILL BE "INTERESTING" BUT HOPEFULLY NOT IN THE CHINESE SENSE OF THE WORD
  - A. LET ME GO BACK TO 1980 A MILD RECESSIONARY ENVIRONMENT
    - 1. INFLATION 13% AND HIGHER EVERY EXPECTATION

      CALLED FOR EVEN HIGHER LEVELS
    - 2. INTEREST RATES WERE EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH AND WOULD INCREASE EVEN MORE AS THE YEAR PROGRESSED
  - B. RISING INTEREST RATES HAD THEIR EFFECT THE RECESSION FOLLOWED
    - 1. MANY WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS THE WORST SINCE THE 1930S
    - 2. PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED
      MIDWESTERN AREA

- 3. WE FINALLY REACHED THE TURNING POINT IN THE 4TH QUARTER OF 1982, THE START OF CURRENT CYCLE
- C. HAD I BEEN HERE IN LATE 1982 OR EARLY 1983
  - 1. HOPE THAT I WOULD HAVE CALLED THE TURN IN THE ECONOMY RIGHT THE SIGNS OF RECOVERY WERE BECOMING QUITE CLEAR
  - 2. BUT HAD I FORECASTED SOME OF THE OTHER

    DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THIS

    INTERVENING PERIOD, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN QUITE

    INCREDULOUS
    - A. FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICITS PERSISTENT RISING
      TO \$220 BILLION
      - (1) AN ABSOLUTELY UNPRECEDENTED EXPERIENCE
    - INTO A MASSIVE TRADE DEFICIT, RUNNING AS HIGH

      AS \$170 BILLION ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

- (1) SHIFT FROM BEING A NET EXTERNAL CREDITOR
  TO BECOMING THE LARGEST EXTERNAL DEBTOR
- C. CONSUMER INSTALLMENT DEBT WOULD REACH RECORD
  LEVELS
  - (1) CONSUMER SAVINGS RATES RECORD LOWS
- D. CORPORATE DEBT WOULD MUSHROOM
- E. DESPITE THESE MASSIVE CREDIT DEMANDS BY ALL
  SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY, INTEREST RATES WOULD
  DECLINE RATHER THAN INCREASING
- F. INFLATION RATE WOULD ALSO COME DOWN EVEN AS WE GOT FURTHER INTO THE CYCLE
  - (1) ANOTHER UNIQUE FEATURE OF THIS ECONOMIC PERIOD
- G. FOUR YEARS AGO YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND THESE
  PROGNOSTICATIONS INDIVIDUALLY UNBELIEVABLE
  AND COLLECTIVELY EVEN MORE STARTLING
  - (1) BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENED

- (2) AND WE HAVE HAD A VERY POSITIVE

  EXPERIENCE DESPITE THESE ABNORMALITIES
- THROUGH THE DECADE, I'M REMINDED BEST OF TIMES/WORST OF
  - A. EXPANSION HAS CONTINUED 17 CONSECUTIVE QUARTERS
    - SECOND LONGEST A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AWAY FROM BEING THE LONGEST IN THE POST-WWII PERIOD
  - B. WON'T SPEND TIME ON FORECAST FOR 1987
    - LITTLE I CAN ADD TO WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW
      - A. BROADLY, 1987 REPLAY OF 1986
      - B. SOME IMPORTANT SHIFTS UNDERLYING BROAD

        EXPECTATION
        - (1) CONSUMPTION/TRADE
      - C. EXPANSION WILL CONTINUE
      - D. CLEARLY WE ARE IN A LONG PERIOD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

IA.BANKERS GROUP 4 MAY 5, 1987

- CHARACTERISTICALLY THIS HAS BEEN. AND CONTINUES TO
  - BE, A STRONG CYCLE
  - EMPLOYMENT 13 MILLION 102 MILLION 1.
    - JAPAN/WESTERN EUROPE 3 MILLION
  - INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVELS
    - DESPITE THE DECLINE IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT INDICATING A SHIFT TO A SERVICE ECONOMY
    - THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR OPERATING AT RECORD LEVELS
  - 3. GNP IN REAL TERMS AT RECORD LEVELS
  - 4. INFLATION RATE DOWN
    - A LITTLE UNDER 2% LAST YEAR ENERGY RELATED
    - WILL BE HIGHER THIS YEAR, SAY, 3-1/2 TO 4% -THE UNWINDING OF THE POSITIVE EFFECTS FROM OIL AND FOOD PRICES THAT WE EXPERIENCED LAST YEAR

GNP deflator.

- 5. AUTOMOTIVE SALES EXPECT SALES OF, SAY, 10.3
  MILLION THIS YEAR
  - A. THE 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF SALES OVER 10
    MILLION
- 6. HOME STARTS ANTICIPATE STARTS OF 1.6 MILLION OR

  1.7 MILLION THIS YEAR
  - A. THE 5TH YEAR OF HOME STARTS IN EXCESS OF 1-1/2 MILLION UNITS
- 7. ANY TIME THESE 2 SECTORS DOING THIS WELL INDICATIVE OF A STRONG ECONOMY
- 8. THESE ARE VERY POWERFUL NUMBERS IN THIS

  PERSPECTIVE THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE GOOD THIS

  REALLY IS THE BEST OF TIMES
  - A. BUT UNDERNEATH THESE VERY POSITIVE NUMBERS. START

    IT HAS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS HAS BEEN A

    VERY UNEVEN EXPERIENCE

B. THE MIDWEST HAS HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF

UNEVENNESS - HEAVY INDUSTRY - AND, OF COURSE,

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHICH HAS GONE, AND

CONTINUES TO GO, THROUGH AN ABSOLUTELY

WRENCHING ADJUSTMENT, AND YOU UNDERSTAND THE

Real implications of this far better than I But let on shift to the other help of Quote.

IV. But in a comparative sense, this may well be the worst of

TIMES - THE OTHER SIDE OF QUOTE

- A. WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME BUILDUP OF IMBALANCES IN

  THE SYSTEM VERY WORRYING DEBT RELATED
  - 1. I'VE COMMENTED ON THE CONTINUING FISCAL DEFICIT
    - A. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE TREASURY DEBT, NOW

      2-1/4 TRILLION, MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE LAST

      FIVE YEARS THE COMPOUNDING EFFECT HAS BEEN

      SIGNIFICANT
  - 2. THE REVERSAL IN THE TRADE ACCOUNTS RESULTING IN THE TRADE DEFICIT

- A. HAS PUT US IN THE POSITION OF BEING THE

  LARGEST EXTERNAL DEBTOR TO THE TUNE OF SOME

  \$250 BILLION LARGER THAN BRAZIL AND MEXICO

  COMBINED
- B. WE HAVE BECOME HIGHLY RELIANT ON THE
  INTERNATIONAL MARKETS
- C. CLEARLY WE ARE LIVING BEYOND OUR MEANS CONSUMPTION HAS OUTPACED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION
  - (1) OUR HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS
  - (2) CLEARLY WE WILL HAVE TO UNWIND THIS

    IMBALANCE
- OUR STANDARD OF LIVING ATS one point we care point have TO Pay to Bell.

  3. CORPORATE DEBT HAS RISEN TO A VERY HIGH LEVEL -
  - 3. CORPORATE DEBT HAS RISEN TO A VERY HIGH LEVEL HAS RISEN IN RECORD AMOUNTS OVER THE PAST THREE

YEARS (1984 ALMOST \$200 BILLION - '85/'86 ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS)

- A. FUELED BY MERGERS AND TAKEOVERS
- B. CORPORATE AMERICA HAS DECAPITALIZED ITSELF
- 4. CONSUMER INSTALLMENT DEBT RELATED TO DISPOSABLE

  INCOME RECORD LEVEL
- 5. WE HAVE BECOME A DEBT-DRIVEN SOCIETY SURPRISING
  IN LIGHT OF LOWER RATE OF INFLATION
  - A. HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO ADVERSITY IN THE EVENT

    OF A RECESSION
- 6. ADD TO THIS RISK LIST THE EXTERNAL DEBTS OF LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
  - A. THE REFINANCING PROBLEMS DIFFICULT ENOUGH
    - (1) BUT CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN THE

      MARKETS INTO WHICH THESE COUNTRIES

      EXPORT PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS IS

ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO GENERATE FOREIGN
CURRENCY TO SERVICE THEIR DEBTS

- 7. CONSIDERING THESE IMBALANCES WORST OF TIMES
- V. GIVEN THE SHARP DICHOTOMY EXCELLENT ECONOMIC RESULTS

  YET THE BUILDUP OF VERY THREATENING IMBALANCES 
  SOMETHING IS VERY DIFFERENT HERE CLEARLY N OT A TYPICAL

  ECONOMIC CYCLE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME MAJOR CHANGES

  A. TWO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHY THINGS SEEM SO DIFFERENT -

THE 1WO FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS - NOTHING NEW/HARDLY A

SURPRISE - YET IMPORTANT

- 1. GLOBALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD
- 2. COMPLETE REVERSAL IN PRICE TRENDS FOR MAJOR RAW

  MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY OIL AND AGRICULTURAL

  PRODUCTS rus mutually facturated

  in Ten related
- B. OF THE TWO, THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY PERHAPS
  THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
  - DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT WHEN THIS CHANGE STARTED

THE EURODOLLAR EMERGED AS AN EXCHANGE MEDIUM IN

THE 1960S - THE MARKET FULLY DEVELOPED IN THE '70S

That Sure slobelisations

A. CATALYST - LUBRICANT Sortall of this started.

3. ON A COMPARATIVE BASIS AT THE TIME - 1960S - WE STILL HAD STRONG ECONOMIC AND MANUFACTURING MOMENTUM REMAINING FROM THE POST-WAR PERIOD - WE CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR EXPORTER - OUR

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ALSO HAD EXPORT STRENGTH

OUR Tracle of the STONY ONC

4. ALL THAT HAS CHANGED OUR EXPORT SECTORS FULLY

EXPOSED TO THE CRUCIBLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL

MARKETPLACE

5. AS A CONSEQUENCE, NET INFLOWS OF FOREIGN CAPITAL

HAVE BECOME AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF

OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH

A. SOME 50% OF OUR NET SAVINGS ARE REQUIRED TO

FINANCE THE FISCAL DEFICIT - SHIFT OF FUNDS

FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

- B. BUT, MY POINT, SOME ONE THIRD OF THESE NET
  SAVINGS ARE COMING FROM INTERNATIONAL MARKETS
- C. TO SAY THE OBVIOUS, THE CONTINUATION OF OUR ECONOMIC EXPERIENCE IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

  TO INCREASING THEIR INVESTMENTS IN DOLLAR DENOMINATED ASSETS Test this week.
- 5. EXTENSIVE OUT-SOURCING IN THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

  HAS BROUGHT FOREIGN GOODS INTO ALL PHASES OF OUR

  DOMESTIC PRODUCTION
  - A. SO-CALLED "DOMESTIC" PRODUCTS SUBSTANTIAL

    FOREIGN COMPONENTS AUTOS FOR EXAMPLE
- 6. THE CREDIT MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE BECOME

  TOTALLY INTEGRATED AND THE FINANCIAL MARKETS ARE

  NOW OPERATING ON A 24 HOUR CLOCK BOARD OF TRADE

  INITIATED EVENING TRADING LAST WEEK

integration of the world's finiance of markets

A. THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR ECONOMIC EVENT - WE ARE

ONLY BEGINNING TO DEAL WITH THE FULL

RAMIFICATIONS

Anterestingly B.

B. INCREASES IN DOMESTIC CREDIT DEMAND HAVE HAD
THEIR PRIMARY EFFECT ON THE VALUE OF THE
DOLLAR RATHER THAN ON INTEREST RATES

'80 - '85: +90%

(1) VALUE OF THE DOLLAR HAS RISEN IN

During pearod,

- (2) INTÉREST RATES HAVE COME DOWN
- C. CASE CAN BE MADE THAT FOREIGN CAPITAL AND

  FOREIGN GOODS HAVE KEPT INTEREST RATES AND

  PRICES LOWER THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN

  THE CASE and that Globalizatemi

7 WE ARE NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF A HIGHLY

may have done fan prore to inscrease levnoning stability than moretury policy alone could even have accomplished PAGE 15 DELETED

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VI the other many Change MAY 5, 1987 that has occurred since the Start PAGE 16

OF THE DECADE - THE HUGE SHIFT IN PRICES FOR RAW

MATERIALS AND MANY OTHER COMMODITIES

- A. REALLY A COMPLETE REVERSAL OF EXPECTATIONS THAT WERE FIRMLY IN PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DECADE
  - WHILE OIL HAS BEEN THE OBVIOUS EXAMPLE THE CHANGE IS MORE PERVASIVE THAN THAT
  - 2. IN THE LATE '70S AND EARLY 1980S PRICES WERE ESCALATING AND BASED ON STUDIES (CLUB OF ROME FOR EXAMPLE) SUGGESTING IMMINENT SHORTAGES THE EXPECTATION WAS THAT THESE PRICES WOULD ONLY CONTINUE TO INCREASE
  - 3. BUT NOW WE ARE DEALING WITH A WORLDWIDE OVER SUPPLY OF MOST OF THESE ITEMS
  - 4. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MORE

WRENCHING EXAMPLES, PARTICULARLY IN OUR DISTRICT Agriculture for example.

5. MANY STUDIES, INCLUDING THOSE BY OUR OWN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORECASTED SHORTAGES

OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS - THE MALTHUSIAN

DOOMSDAY WAS APPROACHING

- A. NOW WE ARE BUSILY TAKING LAND OUT OF
  PRODUCTION IN ENORMOUS QUANTITIES TO TRY AND
  DEAL WITH VAST OVERSUPPLIES
- B. NOT ONLY HAVE WE EXPERIENCED THIS REVERSAL WITH

  REGARD TO THE SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS BUT ON THE

  DEMAND SIDE OF THE EQUATION CHANGES AS WELL
  - 1. MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS HAVE REDUCED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MANY RAW MATERIALS
    - A. CARS USE LESS STEEL AND LESS GAS
    - B. FIBRE-OPTIC LINKS USE POUNDS OF SAND TO
      REPLACE TONS OF COPPER
    - C. NUMEROUS OTHER DRAMATIC EXAMPLES
- C. IN NO WAY DO I WANT TO SUGGEST THAT BECAUSE OF THIS

  CHANGE IN COMMODITY PRICES THE INFLATION PROBLEM IS

Quite le opposite)

BEHIND US A CERTAINLY INFLATION LURKS IN THE BACKGROUND - THE MAJOR THREAT TO OUR LONG RUN ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- 1. BUT IMPACT OF COMMODITY PRICES ON INFLATION QUITE

  DIFFERENT NOW THAN WAS THE CASE AT THE START OF

  THE DECADE
- VII. ALL OF THIS FACES THE FEDERAL RESERVE WITH SIGNIFICANT

  CHALLENGES IN DEALING WITH MONETARY POLICY JUST HOW DO

  WE RESPOND TO THESE VERY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES AND

  CONCURRENTLY DEAL WITH OUR OVERRIDING RESPONSIBILITIES

MONETARY POLICY GOALS

- ECONOMIC GROWTH, HIGH EMPLOYMENT, PRICE
   STABILITY, REASONABLE BALANCE IN OUR TRADE
   ACCOUNTS
- 2. THE MONETARY POLICY PROCESS HAS BECOME INFINITELY

  MORE COMPLICATED

- B. THERE ARE CONFLICTING PRESSURES THAT LEAD TO
- Quits DIFFERENT MONETARY POLICY CONCLUSIONS

  Symple. 1. THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM CONTINUES TO BE FACED WITH CONDITIONS OF SIGNIFICANT STRESS
  - A. CERTAINLY IOWA UNDERSTANDS THIS ISSUE ALL TOO WELL
  - B. THIS MIGHT SUGGEST EASING OR LIQUEFYING THE SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH THESE STRAINS

But alternaturely 2. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ARE BUILDING

- A. NOT PERVASIVE
- B. YET CLEARLY THE TENDENCY IS UP, NOT DOWN -THE GOOD NEWS IS BEHIND US
- C. THIS WOULD SUGGEST TIGHTENING TO PREVENT AN ESCALATION IN THE RATE OF INFLATION
- However, 3. But the underlying economic situation, while CONSISTENT WITH MOST FORECASTS AND CERTAINLY

REASONABLE GIVEN THE POTENTIAL GROWTH RATE IN THE ECONOMY AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT WE'RE WELL INTO THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE CYCLE

- A. WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT POLICY SHOULD BE
- 4. BUT BEYOND DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS, GOING BACK TO
  THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, THE EXCHANGE MARKETS
  BECOME VERY KEY TO OUR THINKING
  - A. AGAIN, SUPPORT OF THE DOLLAR SUGGESTS UPWARD
    PRESSURE ON RATES
  - B. HERE, AGAIN, A CONSIDERATION THAT WOULD LEAD

c. Events atte part few days dramatize the point,

5. A LONG WAY OF SAYING THAT WE ARE AT ONE OF THOSE

POINTS WHERE OUR POLICY DELIBERATIONS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY DIFFICULT

- A. JUDGMENTS RELATING TO A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC

  CONSIDERATIONS, WHILE ALWAYS CRITICAL, ARE

  MUCH MORE SO NOW
- 6. It's important to remember that we can't push the economy beyond its normal potential growth rate without falling back into an inflationary environment
  - A. WHILE THE EXACT QUANTIFICATION OF OUR always

    POTENTIAL GROWTH RATE IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE,

    THIS ALSO HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE

    GLOBALIZATION THAT I HAVE TRIED TO HIGHLIGHT

    TODAY
  - B. RUNNING THE RISK OF RENEWED INFLATION IS

    SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE
    - (1) THE CORRECTIVE PROCESS, A REPEAT OF THE

      1982 EXPERIENCE WHICH ALL OF YOU FEEL SO

      DEEPLY, BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT

- VIII. CONCLUSION LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH PERHAPS THE MOST

  DIFFICULT ISSUE OF ALL THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF

  ALL THIS
  - A. I HOPE I'VE ADEQUATELY MADE THE CASE THAT THE ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD HAVE BECOME INTEGRALLY GLOBALIZED
    - PRODUCTS AND MONEY MOVE RELATIVELY FREELY ACROSS BORDERS
    - 2. BUT ECONOMIC/FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES DO NOT

       THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GLOBALIZED IN THE

      COOPERATIVE SENSE OF THE WORD
    - 3. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT VERY, VERY DEEP POLITICAL ISSUES HERE
    - 4. THE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE LEADERS OF THE FREE
      WORLD ARE A POSITIVE EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THESE
      MAJOR ISSUES BUT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE
      TANGIBLE RESULTS

- 5. INDEED, THE RISK OF PROTECTIONISM GROWS AND I

  DON'T THINK I NEED SPEND TIME DEALING WITH THE

  CONSEQUENCES OF PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION
- 6. I VIEW COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG THE

  MAJOR COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH THESE POLICY

  DETERMINATIONS AS PERHAPS THE MOST PRESSING ISSUE

  IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION
- B. If THE MAJOR NATIONS ARE ABLE TO FIND A WAY OF

  RESOLVING THESE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND COOPERATING

  AMONGST THEMSELVES
  - 1. THIS WILL BEGIN TO PUT SOME OF THE IMBALANCES

    THAT I HAVE TOUCHED UPON (MOST PARTICULARLY THE

    DEBT PROBLEM) IN A MORE REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE
  - 2. AND PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A LONG, CONTINUING AND
    HIGHLY REWARDING ECONOMIC EXPERIENCE

THANK YOU

\* \* \* \*