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## **Explains Reasons for High Interest Rates**

"Criticism of bank lending rates during the current tight-money period arises from widespread misunderstanding of the forces that cause those rates to move up or down."

This is the comment made by Tilden Cummings, president of Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company, Chicago.

Public reaction against the banks has become sharpened since last June, he said, when the prime lending rate was raised to 8½%.

"While it is generally recognized that the price of a tangible commodity will rise inexorably when that item is in short supply (or fall when the supply is generous), there is surprisingly little comprehension the same factors influence money rates. In the case of banks, the problem is intensified during a tight-money period (such as we are now experiencing) by restraints that are imposed quite properly by the Federal Reserve Board as part of the effort to contain inflation."

Mr. Cummings cites three reasons why rising costs of bank credit are an effect and not a cause of tight money:

First, "when there is an exceptionally strong demand for goods and services, as at present, the prices of those goods and ser-

vices tend to increase. In a classic inflationary situation, demand continues to rise and businesses seek to obtain more credit in order to increase production. The increase in demand for credit tends to push up interest rates."



Tilden Cummings

Second, the public, once it's convinced that prices will continue to rise unchecked, develops a 'buy-now-before-prices-rise-again' psychology. "The awareness of this threat led the Administration and the Federal Reserve System to propose and institute a policy of restraint designed to slow the rapid escalation of prices," Mr. Cummings said.

Third, as part of the government's action, the Federal Reserve has used its power to cut the flow of funds available to banks for lending. This action may include selling government securities to dry up available dollars,

raising bank reserve requirements, or other steps to cut the lending ability of the banks. For example, the Federal Reserve has held down the interest rate ceiling that banks may pay on time deposits, and so billions of dollars have flowed out of the banks and into higher-paying investments.

"Thus credit becomes scarce in relation to demand," Mr. Cummings said. As a result, interest rates move upward. "In this situation, the banks become the most visible part of the (government's) restraining process. Consequently, (banks) are likely to receive the brunt of the criticism from those most affected by tight money."

Mr. Cummings comments were distributed to all members of his bank and to key Congressmen and Illinois legislators.

#### Messenger Service Case Gets Hearing...

The question of whether a national bank's armored car messenger service constitutes branch banking will be argued before the U. S. Supreme Court October 20.

The high court has agreed to hear one hour and 40 minutes of argument in the suit by First National Bank of Plant City, Fla. against State Comptroller Fred O. Dickinson, Jr. First National is appealing a decision by the U. S. (Continued on Page 4)

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#### **IOWA NEWS**

ALGONA: Gordon C. Hall has been named managing officer of the Security State Bank by Robert Isensee, who bought the bank recently. Mr. Isensee is president of United Home Bank, Mason City. Mr. Hall was until recently president of the Coralville Bank and Trust Company, where Mr. Isensee was chairman.

CLINTON: Clinton NationalBank will hold a series of open houses in its newly remodeled and enlarged bank on September 15, 16 and 17.

DAVENPORT: Wayne H. Geadelmann has joined the First National Bank of Davenport as a vice president and trust officer. He was formerly a vice president and cashier at the Poweshiek County National Bank in Grinnell.

DAVENPORT: Following an end to a construction strike in the Davenport area, Davenport Bank and Trust Company has broken ground for its new building, which will adjoin the main bank.

DES MOINES: A total of 240 bankers attending the annual installment credit conference of the IBA in Des Moines last week heard Insurance Commissioner Lorne Worthington say that he will set a rate for credit life commissions in the area of  $60 \, cmms$  to about October 15. A complete report of the conference will appear in the October magazine issue.

IOWA CITY: G.Kurt Wayne has joined the Iowa State Bank and Trust Company as a loan officer. He was assistant vice president at Bankers Trust Company, Des Moines.

KNOXVILLE: The 3M Company has announced plans for the construction next year of a multi-million dollar manufacturing plant here. The plant, to employ approximately 200 persons, is expected to be operational by late 1971 and will be used by the firm's industrial special products department.

ONSLOW: George H. Paulsen, cashier at the Onslow Savings Bank, has been named bank president. He has been a member of the bank's board of directors since 1927. Kenneth Kennedy, president of the bank

since 1962, has retired. E. J. Buresh, president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Anamosa since 1963, has purchased the interests of the Holst family in the bank and has been named to the board of directors. Others newly named to the board are Les Buresh and Guy Sleep, both are senior vice presidents of the Anamosa bank. Adolph Stampe has been promoted from assistant cashier to cashier.

URBANDALE: Application has been filed with the State Banking Department for the establishment of a new Brenton bank here. Organizers of the proposed Northwest Brenton Bank and Trust Company are William H. Brenton, C. Robert Brenton, J. C. Brenton, C. S. Johnson and David G. Wright, all of Des Moines. Mr. Wright, president of the Northwest Des Moines National Bank, an affiliate of the Brenton group, has announced the existing Urbandale office of the Northwest Des Moines National will be replaced by the new bank.

#### **NEBRASKA NEWS**

OAKDALE: The First National Bank of Oakdale recently held an open house in its newly remodeled bank quarters. Merle D. Wagner, local businessman, has been elected to the board of directors. Barry Marsh also has joined the bank's staff.

OMAHA: The First National Bank's 11th annual Economic and Beef Cattle Forum will be held Thursday, September 11, at the Fontenelle Hotel here. For complete details, see the September Northwestern Banker.

POTTER: D. Fred Enevoldsen, president of the Potter State Bank, will be honored during the 1969 Potter Days celebration here September 12—13. Mr. Enevoldsen has been active in the celebration for nearly 40 years.

#### MINNESOTA NEWS

The Minnesota Bankers Association's 1969 district meetings will be held September 8-17 at seven locations throughout the state.

Featured speaker at the meetings, according to S. R. Wheaton, MBA president, will be nationally known author and consultant Harold Pluimer. Mr. Pluimer is author of a book "The Frontiers of Our Times," which will be his topic for the dinner program at the meetings.

Other program speakers and their



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topics will include Mr. Wheaton, who will be discussing federal legislation; MBA Vice President Marvin R. Campbell, the MBA insurance and fringe benefit program; MBA Executive Vice President Kenneth A. Wales, state legislation; MBA Secretary Truman L. Jeffers, education, public relations and television advertising; Wayne F. Berthiaume, MBA publicity director, MBA film and staff training programs.

The district business meetings will include election of officers and directors, endorsement of MBA officers for 1970-71 and a report by the district councilman. In districts 7, 8 and 9, a councilman will be elected to take office in June, 1970.

Afternoon programs will conclude with a presentation by Dean F. Scott, MBA legal counsel, on "Regulation Z-Truth-in-Lending," followed by a question-answer period.

Following are the dates and locations for each district meeting:

September 8-District 7, Country Club, Montevideo.

September 9-District 2, Kato Ballroom, Mankato.

September 10-District 1, Sheraton Rochester Hotel, Rochester.

September 11-Districts 3, 4 and 5, Ambassador Motel, St. Louis Park.

September 15-District 8, Coates Hotel, Virginia.

September 16-District 9, Erie Jr. Club, Detroit Lakes.

September 17-District 6, Germain Hotel, St. Cloud.

GLENCOE: Dennis Herzog has been promoted from assistant vice president to vice president at the First National Bank. L. H. Schlauderaff, who joined the bank on July 1, has been named assistant vice president.

HASTINGS: John Exley has resigned as vice president of the First National Bank of Hastings.

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MINNEAPOLIS: Promotions and ap- bank's main office. John Stanage, aspointments of five officers and the assignment of additional responsibilities to a sixth have been announced by the National City Bank of Minneapolis. Ben E. Fellows, formerly comptroller-auditor, has been promoted to vice president and comptroller and was named secretary to the board of directors; Harriet B. Halvorson, formerly personnel director, to assistant vice president in charge of personnel administration; Michael J. Kelley, from credit manager to commercial lending officer; Thomas J. Freed, formerly accounting manager, to assistant comptroller. Douglas Peterson, formerly vice president at the Marquette National Bank, has joined National City Bank as assistant vice president in the commercial banking department. Rolf Bjelland, vice president, has been named to LEEDS: Dale Streyle is the new preshead the commercial banking depart- ident of the Farmers State Bank of

#### SOUTH DAKOTA NEWS

CANISTOTA: Charles Lambertz has been appointed assistant cashier at the Canistota office of the United National Bank of Vermillion, assuming the duties of Dennis Kasten, who has resigned.

GROTON: David Stulken, assistant cashier at the Britton office of the First National Bank of Aberdeen, has joined the bank's Groton office, succeeding David Erickson, who has joined a North Dakota bank.

VERMILLION: Thomas Long, vice president and manager of the United National Bank of Vermillion, Valley Springs office, has been appointed vice president and manager of the

sistant cashier at the bank's Brandon office, has assumed Mr. Long's duties in Valley Springs. Marion F. Kelly has been appointed credit supervisor for the bank and its offices. He is a former FDIC bank examiner and most recently served as vice president and director of United National Bank of Brandon.

#### **NORTH DAKOTA NEWS**

BISMARCK: H. L. Thorndal, Jr., former North Dakota state commissioner of banking and financial institutions, has assumed the presidency of the state-owned Bank of North Dakota as of September 1.

Leeds. He is also cashier. New vice presidents of the bank are Raymond A. Lamb of Moorhead and Virgil F. Hegeholz of Fargo. The three men will also serve as directors, having purchased the bank interests of the Arne A. Gregor family, which had owned the bank since 1926.

MINOT: Fred Visina, formerly associated with a local credit company, has been named a loan officer at the First Western Bank. He has 10 years of experience in the finance field.

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#### **COLORADO NEWS**

DENVER: Ownership of the Union National Bank has returned to Denver after 14 months, with the purchase of the Union National Bank Corporation by Stuarco Oil Company, Inc., from Vickers Trust of Wichita. Stuarco is a privately owned crude-oil producing and drilling company. No changes in bank personnel have been announced.

LITTLETON: Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Corwin, retired commander of the Air Force Accounting and Finance



Center in Denver, and Robert L. Pennock have been named directors of the Arapahoe Valley Bank here. Gen. Corwin is currently vice president and treasurer of the C. A. Norgren Company, Littleton, and Mr. Pennock is vice president and general manager of Honeywell's photographic division.

RIFLE: The Rifle Bank Agency, Inc., has purchased 448 of the outstanding 500 shares of stock in the First National Bank here from Mads Anderson and associates.

#### WYOMING NEWS

GILLETTE: Ground has been broken here for the new bank building of the

First National Bank. The \$300,000 structure is scheduled to be completed in January, 1970.

SHERIDAN: The old First National Bank building here was razed recently to make way for a modern new onestory structure to house the bank.

#### Hearing ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last September that its messenger service constituted branch banking in violation of Florida state law.

Following the decision, First National and the Comptroller of the Currency brought appeals to the high court. In addition, numerous 'friend of the court' briefs were filed in support of both positions. However, oral arguments before the high court will be limited to attorneys for First National, Dickinson and the U. S. Solicitor General, who will represent the Comptroller.

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