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Membership Decline Concerns Fed Chairman

Foes within the banking industry who continue fighting uniform reserve requirements could weaken the Federal Reserve Board's ability to control credit, FRB Chairman Arthur F. Burns has warned.

Speaking at a meeting of the American Bankers Association in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., Mr. Burns said that unless the extension is forthcoming soon it could weaken the Fed's ability "to maintain a stable currency and a sound banking system."

As it presently stands, commercial banks that are members of the Reserve System must set aside a certain percentage of their deposits in regional Federal Reserve Banks. This reserve requirement—which varies depending on the size of the bank—does not apply to banks that are not members of the Reserve.

In addition to nonmember banks, Mr. Burns said the reserve requirements should apply to mutual savings banks.

ABA officials have repeatedly told the Treasury Department they will not support legislation to reorganize financial institutions if the reserve requirements are in it.

In an apparent attempt to point up the seriousness of the problem for the Fed, Mr. Burns noted the erosion of membership in recent years. Since 1960, about 700 banks have left the Fed through withdrawal or mergers while only about 100 of 1,500 new state-chartered banks have joined the system. At the end of 1972, membership in

the Federal Reserve was down to 5,705 from 5,727 a year earlier.

Mr. Burns said that he was well aware that the reserve requirement proposal was



"not viewed with favor by many segments of the banking community, and that is the major reason why this needed reform has been delayed. The proposal would be more palatable to bankers if some part of the Board's reserve requirement against demand deposits could be held in the form of an earning asset, such as U.S. Government securities. I do not want to rule out that possibility categorically."

The FRB Chairman added, "... however attractive reserve requirements in that form may be from the standpoint of bank earnings, they cannot serve a useful function in monetary management. As I noted earlier, satisfactory control over the supply of money and credit requires that bank reserves be held in the form of assets whose aggregate volume is directly controlled by the Federal Reserve."

The principal of the Fed's recommendation is simple and straight forward, Burns told his audience. Namely, it is that equivalent reserve requirements should apply to all deposits that effectively serve as part of the public's money balances.

"Recent efforts of nonbank depository institutions to evolve new modes of money transfer make adoption of this principle a matter of some urgency," stressed Burns. "If legislative action is delayed, we may soon find a much larger share of money transfers taking place at institutions outside the reach of the Board's reserve requirements.

He then went on to note the growth of "NOW" accounts (negotiable orders of withdrawal) in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and the effort of savings and loan associations in California to gain direct access to an electronic money transfer system operated by California banks.

"The board believes," continued Mr. Burns, "and has so indicated in testimony to the Congress, that Federal regulation should permit developments such as these to flourish, so that the range of services of depository institutions to American families may be extended. The board believes, however, that present trends could have significant adverse effects on monetary control unless reserve requirements established by the Federal Reserve are applied to all deposit accounts involving money transfer services. Failure to do so would also have damaging effects on competitive relations between commercial banks and nonbank thrift institutions."

Mr. Burns stressed that universal application of reserve requirements to all (Turn to back page, please)

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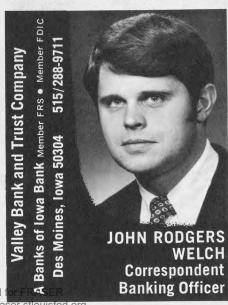
CEDAR RAPIDS: F. Forbes Olberg, president of Banks of Iowa, Inc., has announced the formation of Banks of Iowa Computer Services, Inc. The new company will concentrate existing computer capabilities of the bank holding company into a single corporation.

COUNCIL BLUFFS: Group 5 of the Iowa Bankers Association elected as chairman Dick Goos, vice president, First Natl. Bk., Council Bluffs. H. Rand Peterson, president, Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, will serve as secretary.

DENISON: Lyle Hansen, formerly with the Manning Tr. & Sav. Bk. for 17 years, has joined the First Natl. Bk. as asst. vice president.

DES MOINES: Iowa Bankers Association has announced plans for an executive seminar at Tan-Tar-A resort in the Lake of the Ozarks area on June 6, 7, 8. Cost will be \$75 and details can be obtained by contacting Neil Milner, executive vice president in the IBA office.

FORT DODGE: Richard C. Gray has been named assistant vice president and ag loan officer by the State Bank of Fort Dodge. He has served as an area farm management specialist with Iowa State University.



MILFORD: Dickinson County Savings Bank has named William Holiday as farm rep. He has been Dickinson County ASCS director for 16 years.

POLK CITY: W. C. Miller, president, Polk City Savings Bank, has announced a change in open house dates for his bank's 70th year. The new dates will be May 28 through June 2.

ROCK RAPIDS: The Lyon County State Bank has won Hawkeye Bancorporation's "Outstanding Operating Achievement" award, given annually to a member bank. This is the second time in 5 years Lyon County has won the award. It is based on areas such as growth, operating ratios, profit and support given to parent company.

SHENANDOAH: Ben L. Johnson, president of the City National Bank, died May 8.

WAVERLY: H. C. Nolting has retired as chairman of the First National Bank after 55 active years in banking.

NEBRASKA NEWS

ELM CREEK: Henry E. Ley, director of banking, has officially closed the Elm Creek State Bank, and the FDIC has started paying depositors. Mr. Ley made his announcement on Monday, May 7.

FREMONT: Jerry D. Schiermeyer has been elected to the position of president of the Fremont First National Co. and Fremont First State Co., both one-bank holding companies. Glenn Yaussi was elected vice chairman and treasurer of both companies.

KEARNEY: Jerry D. Schiermeyer of Lincoln was elected to the board and named president of the Kearney First National Co., a bank holding company. Other officers and directors elected were Harold Oldfather, chairman; Glenn Yaussi, vice chairman and treasurer; Paul J. Amen, executive vice president and secretary; Alan M. Oldfather, executive vice president, and Chester Nielsen, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer.

OMAHA: A record attendance of over 1,300 was reported by the Nebraska Bankers Convention. F. Willard Jackman, chmn., Farmers Natl. Bk. Grant, is the new pres. New vice president is Richard Adkins, pres., Osmond State Bk. A complete report will be published by Ben Haller, Jr., editor, in the June magazine issue of the NORTHWESTERN BANKER.

ILLINOIS NEWS

CHICAGO: Ralph C. Erwin, formerly with Devon Bank, has joined Mid-America Natl. Bk. as vice pres. in charge of marketing.

CHICAGO: O'Hare International Bank, N.A. has made the following promotions: Thomas H. Detrick to sr. v.p. and cash.; Lloyd W. Bell, Jr., to senior v.p. and senior lending officer, and Richard E. Wilson, to vice pres. and controller.

CHICAGO: Pullman Bk. & Tr. Co. has hired Robert H. Costello as a commercial loan officer. He was with Walter E. Heller and Co.

RIVER GROVE: A permit to organize has been issued by the Comm. of Bks. and Tr. to River Grove State Bank, Corner of Belmont & Thatcher. Capitalization will con-

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MINNESOTA NEWS

DELANO: Donald O. Gilmer, chairman, State Bank of Delano, has returned to the bank after having sold Delano Granite, Inc. Homer Luick will continue as president and chief executive. Steven R. Gilmer, 28, will become vice president. It was also reported that Harry J. Jensen, former chmn. and owner of the State Bank of Delano, has purchased control of the Guaranty St. Bk.,

MINNEAPOLIS: Northwestern National Bank has advanced eight staff members. Paul B. Damkroger was named a vice president. Named commercial credit officer was C. A. Johnson. Named marketing officer was Ronald Lovick. Bernard Petersen was named operations officer, transit. Elected corporate trust officers were: Vyrl Norby, Ralph Lott III, and Kenneth Sandstad. Donna Carson was named probate officer.

NEW HOPE: The New Hope State Bank officially opened for business last week, according to Steven J. Johnson, president. Dennis A. Williams will be vice president and cashier, and Donald A. Moffat, assistant cashier.

WORTHINGTON: State Bank of Worthington has advanced Howard W. Meyer to vice president, according to Pres. John Troth. He joined the bank a year ago as ag rep.

COLORADO NEWS

DENVER: United Banks of Colorado, Inc., has announced an agreement in principle to acquire the Broomfield Bank in an exchange of stock. It also announced that it has received Federal Reserve Board approval to acquire the National Bank of

DENVER: Colorado National Leasing, Inc., has begun operation as a subsidiary of Colorado National Bankshares, Inc., a Denver headquartered multi-bank holding company, according to Melvin J. Roberts, president of the parent company. It will engage in full-scale leasing of equipment of regional businesses. Mr. Roberts also announced that William W. Wehner has joined the holding company to manage the leasing operation.

NORTH DAKOTA NEWS

ROLLA: Larry Thiel has been advanced to a.c. and asst. mgr., Timepay Dept., First Bank of Rolla.

DRAYTON: Ken Fish, former exec. v.p. of the Security State Bank, Harlem, Montana, has been named manager of the Drayton State Bank.

LANGDON: First Bank of Langdon has opened a paying and receiving station at the MSR site near Nekoma.







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SOUTH DAKOTA NEWS

RAPID CITY: The 81st annual South Dakota Bankers Convention will get underway on Thursday, May 17. Golf at Arrowhead Country Club and bowling at Meadowwood Bowling Lanes will start the action. A social hour will be held on Thursday evening at the Howard Johnson Motel starting at 5:30 P.M. The official program starts at 9:00 A.M. on Friday at Howard Johnson's.

MONTANA NEWS

GREAT FALLS: The Bancorporation of Montana has filed an application to acquire the First Security Bank of Glasgow, N. A.

KALISPELL: An application by the First Security Bank of Kalispell for Federal deposit insurance has been approved. The bank has total capital accounts of \$700,000.

MISSOULA: Jerome S. C. Nelson has been promoted to assistant vice president of the Southside National Bank, according to Earl W. Johnson, bank president. Mr. Nelson began his banking career with the First National Bank is Bozeman in April, 1965, and joined his present bank as assistant cashier and manager of the real estate department in 1971.

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MEMBERSHIP DECLINE (Continued from Page 1)

deposits providing money transfer services need not mean a uniform percentage requirement on all deposits.

"There may be a reasonable basis for lower reserve requirements on savings accounts with third-party transfer privileges than for deposits that carry full checking account powers. There may also be a reasonable basis for retaining the principle of reserve requirements graduated by size of the depository institution. Lack of uniformity of reserve requirements on similar deposits does, however, pose potential problems for monetary control," Mr. Burns reminded his audience.

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