# The original documents are located in Box 26, folder "October 10, 1974 - National Bankers Association" of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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# REMARKS NATIONAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION FAIRMONT COLONY SQUARE HOTEL ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BY:
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. CHAIRMAN, HONORED GUESTS, OFFICERS OF THE

NATIONAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION, FELLOW COMMENTATORS, LADIES

AND GENTLEMEN:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH
YOU HERE IN ATLANTA. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ATTEND SEVERAL OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS AND PROGRAM
ACTIVITIES AND MUST COMPLIMENT YOU ON A BUSY AND
A WELL-CONCEIVED CONVENTION AGENDA.

IN THE COURSE OF MY BRIEF REMARKS, I WOULD LIKE

TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS COVERING THREE BASIC TOPICS--
COVERING ONE PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE MINORITY

BANKING SCENE. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WHERE

THE MINORITY-OWNED BANKS HAVE BEEN; THEN OUTLINE HOW I

PERCEIVE THE BANKS TODAY AND, FINALLY, TO TALK JUST A

LITTLE ABOUT WHERE WE MIGHT ALL BE HEADED.

LET'S LOOK BACK TEN YEARS, TO JANUARY 1964, AT THAT

TIME THERE WERE NINE BANKS CONSIDERED TO BE "MINORITY
OWNED"----AND THESE BANKS HAD TOTAL DEPOSITS OF LESS

THAN \$90 MILLION.

THIS WHOLE GROUP INEFFECTIVE, POORLY MANAGED, POORLY
LOCATED, UNCAPABLE OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION; TOKEN BANKS,
MAKING REAL ESTATE LOANS WITHOUT RISK; BANKS IN NAME
ONLY.

AND YET, THREE BANKS WERE OPENED IN 1965, AND BY OCTOBER OF 1970 THERE WERE 28 BANKS DESIGNATED AS MINORITY-OWNED,

WITH A TOTAL OF \$396 MILLION IN DEPOSITS. IN 1969, PROFESSOR ED IRONS PREVAILED UPON THE ADMINISTRATION TO FUND AN EXPANDED MINORITY BANKING EFFORT AND YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS SINCE HAD A FULL-TIME STAFF, FUNDED IN GREAT PART BY GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE OFFICE OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, BOTH LOCATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

IN 1970 THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY AND COMMERCE

OVERSAW A BANK DEPOSIT PROGRAM WHICH INCREASED DEPOSITS

BY 30% IN ONE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD. DURING THE ENSUING

YEARS, YOU HAVE WORKED WITH THE AMERICAN BANKERS

ASSOCIATION ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING, YOU HAVE DEVELOPED

JOINT-LENDING PROGRAMS FOR LARGE FIRMS, YOU HAVE

PROVIDED DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO ORGANIZING GROUPS, YOU

HAVE A MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR YOUR ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS

EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED YOUR PROBLEMS, YOUR GOALS AND

YOUR POSITION ON KEY MATTERS OF MATERIAL INTEREST TO

THE ADMINISTRATION, TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND TO THE

PUBLIC.

TODAY YOU STAND 61 STRONG, WITH OVER \$1.1 BILLION IN ASSETS—AN INCREASE OF 120% IN NUMBERS AND ALMOST 200% IN DEPOSITS.

I ASK YOU, DOES THAT SOUND INEFFECTIVE, DOES THAT SOUND

AS THOUGH MINORITY BANKING IS TO KEN BANKING. THAT YOU

ARE INCAPABLE OF GROWTH----MY ANSWER IS NO!

AND THAT BRINGS US TO YOUR CURRENT STATUS. WITH
61 BANKS OWNED- AT LEAST 50% BY MEMBERS OF RACIAL
MINORITIES. WITH SOME 23 MORE GROUPS IN VARIOUS
STAGES OF ORGANIZATION AND WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER
BANKS NOT "MINORITY-OWNED" IN THE STRICT INTERPRETATION,
BUT WITH LARGE MINORITY OWNERSHIP AND A SOLID DEGRESS
OF MINORITY MANAGEMENT CONTROL.

TODAY OUR 61 MINORITY BANKS ARE LOCATED IN 50 CITIES;
LOCALLY-OWNED, LOCALLY MANAGED, SERVING NOT ONLY THE
MINORITY COMMUNITIES BUT PUTTING THEIR ASSETS TO WORK
FOR THE BENEFIT OF, FIRST; THE BANK ITSELF AND SECONDLY;
ITS SERVICE AREA. ALMOST ALL OF OUR BANKS REPORT A NET
PROFIT----NONE HAS FAILED SINCE 1933, THOUGH WE HAVE HAD
SOME CLOSE CALLS, AS YOU ARE AWARE.



THE BANK DEPOSIT PROGRAM IS STILL WITH US, WITH

SIZABLE DEPOSITS AVAILABLE TO OUR BANKS FROM BOTH

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY FOR THE AGGRESSIVE BANK THAT

MARKETS ITS SERVICES TO THESE SOURCES AND THAT FINDS THEY

ARE ACTUALLY PROFITABLE ACCOUNTS.

THE NUMBER OF MINORITY BANKS CONTINUE TO GROW, WITH SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION ATTENTION AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

YOUR SECOND AND RECENT BANK DIRECTORS TRAINING
PROGRAM, READILY DEMONSTRATES THE ATTITUDE OF BOTH
YOUR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT AND YOUR DIRECTORS
THEMSELVES. THERE IS A HEALTHY DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT CAN BE
DONE, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AND HOW IT CAN BE DONE
PROPERLY. AGAIN, WE ARE PLEASED THAT OMBE, THE COMPTROLLER
OF THE CURRENCY, THE FDIC AND THE MAJORITY BANKING
INDUSTRY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

THAT BRINGS US TO A BRIEF LOOK AT WHAT MIGHT BE IN

THE FUTURE.

FIRST, COMPETITION, AND LOTS OF IT. COMPETITION FROM MAJORITY BANKS, COMPETITION FROM A CHANGING SAVINGS AND LOAN INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION FROM OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES SUCH AS THE EXPANDING CREDIT UNION FIELD. TO COMBAT THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM, YOU MUST CONTINUE TO UPGRADE YOUR STAFF, STRENGTHEN YOUR MANAGEMENT AND YOUR BOARDS - BE AGGRESSIVE! LOOK AT OPPORTUNITIES AND TAKE ACTION WHENEVER PRACTICAL AND WORTHWHILE.

NEXT, TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE; EXPANSION OF AUTOMATIC
TELLER OPERATIONS, THE ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF FUNDS OR
EFTS, MORE STEPS TOWARD THE CASHLESS SOCIETY, PERHAPS,
BROADER BRANCHING POWERS AND CERTAINLY, A CONTINUATION
OF THE TREND TOWARD HOLDING COMPANIES. YOUR OWN
INTERESTS IN SOME TYPE OF COOPERATIVE CENTRAL UNIT OR
NATIONAL BANKERS TRUST COMPANY INDICATES A RECOGNITION
OF THE NEED TO KEEP ABREAST OF THESE EFFORTS, BUT YOU MUST

KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON HOW ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES SUCH AS THESE, WHICH MIGHT LOOK GREAT FOR THE "BIG BOYS" CAN DO YOU IN----AND THAT'S WHY YOUR ASSOCIATION MUST DOUBLE ITS EFFORTS ON YOUR BEHALF, AND WHY YOU MUST CONTINUE AND INCREASE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

AND, FINALLY; I SINCERELY BELIEVE THE FUTURE WILL SEF
US MEETING AGAIN, WHEN THERE ARE BANKS IN MANY MORE
CITIES, SOUNDLY MANAGED, AND PARTICIPATING FULLY
IN THEIR LOCAL ECONOMY, SERVING BOTH THEIR MARKETPLACE AND THEIR STOCKHOLDERS-IN FULL RECOGNITION THAT
THEY ARE BANKS TO BE PROUD OF, BANKS THAT ARE AGGRESSIVE
AND SUCCESSFUL TRUE INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE.

HOW CAN WE FAIL TO ACHIEVE THIS LAST OBSERVATION WITH

ALL OF YOU WORKING TOGETHER. WE MUST NOT FAIL TO ACHIEVE---WE WILL NOT!

THANK YOU!

### SUGGESTED REMARKS

## National Bankers Association Meeting

Mr. Chairman, honored guests, officers of the National Bankers Association, fellow commentators, ladies and gentlemen:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you here in Atlanta. I have had the opportunity to attend several of your discussions and program activities and must compliment you on a busy and a well-conceived convention agenda.

In the course of my brief remarks, I would like to spend a few moments covering three basic topics----covering one person's perspective of the minority banking scene. First, I would like to talk about where the minority-owned banks have been; then outline how I perceive the banks today and, finally, to talk just a little about where we might all be headed.

Let's look back ten years, to January 1964, at that time there were

9 banks considered to be "minority-owned"----and these banks had total deposits
of less than \$90 million.

During 1964, 4 banks were opened. Some called this whole group ineffective, poorly managed, poorly located, uncapable of growth and expansion; token banks, making real estate loans without risk; banks in name only.

And yet, 3 banks were opened in 1965, and by October of 1970 there were 28 banks designated as minority-owned, with a total of \$396 million in deposits. In 1969, Professor Ed Irons prevailed upon the administration to fund an expanded minority banking effort and your association has since had a full-time staff, funded in great part by grants and contracts from the Economic Development Administration and the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, both located in the Department of Commerce.

In 1970 the Departments of Treasury and Commerce oversaw a bank deposit program which increased deposits by 30% in one twelve month period. During the ensuing years, you have worked with the American Bankers Association on management training, you have developed joint-lending programs for large firms, you have provided direct assistance to organizing groups, you have a management team for your association which has effectively presented your problems, your goals and your position on key matters of material interest to the administration, to members of Congress and to . the public.

Today you stand 61 strong with over \$1.1 billion in assets----an increase of 120% in numbers and almost 200% in deposits. I ask you, does that sound ineffective, does that sound as though minority banking is token banking. That you are incapble of growth----my answer is NO!

And that brings us to your current status. With 61 banks owned atleast 50% by members of racial minorities. With some 23 more groups
in various stages of organization and with a number of other banks not
"minority-owned" in the strict interpretation, but with large minority
ownership and a solid degress of minority management control.

Today our 61 minority banks are located in <u>50</u> cities; locally-owned, locally managed, serving not only the minority communities but putting their assets to work for the benefit of, first; the bank itself and secondly; its service area. Almost all of our banks report a net profit----none has failed since 1933, though we have had some close calls, as you are aware.

The bank deposit program is still with us, with sizable deposits available to our banks from both government and industry for the aggressive

bank that markets its services to these sources and that finds they are actually profitable accounts.

The number of minority banks continues to grow, with special administration attention and assistance in this area.

Your second and recent bank directors training program, readily demonstrates the attitude of both your professional management and your directors themselves. There is a healthy desire to know what can be done, what should be done and how it can be done properly. Again, we are pleased that OMBE, the Comptroller of the Currency, the FDIC and the majority banking industry could be of assistance in this area.

That brings us to a brief look at what might be in the future.

First, competition, and lots of it. Competition from majority banks, competition from a changing Savings & Loan industry and competition from other financial sources such as the expanding credit union field.

To combat this type of problem, you must continue to upgrade your staff, screngthen your management and your boards - be aggressive! Look at opportunities and take action whenever practical and worthwhile.

Next, technological change; expansion of automatic teller operations, the electronic transfer of funds or EFTS, more steps toward the cashless society, perhaps, broader branching powers and certainly, a continuation of the trend toward holding companies. Your own interests in some type of cooperative central unit or national bankers trust company indicates a recognition of the need to keep abreast of these efforts, but you must keep a close watch on how activities and changes such as these, which might look great for the "big boys" can do you in----and that's why your association must double its efforts on your behalf, and why you must continue and increase your support of the association.

And, finally; I sincerely believe the future will see us meeting again, when there are banks in many more cities, soundly managed, and participating fully in their local economy, serving both their market-place and their stockholders-in full recognition that they are banks to be proud of, banks that are aggressive and successful true instruments of service.

How can we fail to achieve this last observation with all of you working together. We must not fail to achieve----we will not!

Thank you!

