

Mr. MARLATT. If the Senator will bear with me, I think that the one thing that I tried to make plain here was that we were entitled to the benefit of the Federal Reserve Board action where it said:

The action of Congress in confirming what the board had attempted to accomplish by regulation has given State banking institutions firm assurance that they may continue to carry on their lawful banking business in substantially the same way as they have heretofore done without fear of future changes in methods prescribed.

Senator GLASS. I understand what primarily you advocate. You are advocating for your clients the right not only to retain these branches where maintained in municipalities, but the right to retain the branches that have been established in contiguous territory. That is perfectly clear. But I am asking you if you think branch banking is essentially a bad system of banking, and if you do not think it is a bad system of banking, whether you advocate the exclusion of the privilege from 26 other States.

Mr. MARLATT. I have said that I do not advocate it and I will be satisfied, from selfish reasons, if the clause "contiguous territory" is added, as far as the people I represent are concerned.

Senator GLASS. For peculiarly selfish reasons?

Mr. MARLATT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank you.

STATEMENT OF H. B. VINSON, REPRESENTING THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BANKERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

Mr. VINSON. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it is my privilege to represent the Westchester County Bankers' Association of New York State, embracing some 51 institutions, with assets of about \$250,000,000.

Within this county there are four cities which have grown from small communities to the population that they have to-day and we have grown with our banking institutions as this county has grown and we are in accord with the McFadden idea. To emphasize our feelings in the matter, we recently called a meeting of our organization and we unanimously voted to express our disapproval of the idea of allowing branches in contiguous territory, because we probably possibly represent the greatest territory adjacent to the greatest city in the country.

We, I believe, in our territory served by these 51 institutions, are giving that section every banking facility that is required. In fact, within the past few weeks, the superintendent of banks of the State of New York has refused an application that I know of, due to the fact that he did not consider it warranted. Of the 42, what I might term commercial banking institutions, 9 being savings banks, 31 are members of the Federal reserve system, and I want to leave with you gentlemen our feelings in the matter due to the fact that we believe that with the heavy investment we have to-day, with the money that is in our care, we are able to give it proper attention, and that there are all the banking facilities it needs to-day.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Vinson, what is it you apprehend would happen if the bill were amended in the way advocated by Mr. Marlatt