

CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATIONS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1926

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
Washington, D. C.

The committee met at 10 o'clock a. m. pursuant to adjournment, Senator George W. Pepper (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order. Mr. Fitzgerald, we shall be glad to have a statement from you at this time.

STATEMENT OF R. M. FITZGERALD, OAKLAND, CALIF.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I am vice president of the Central National Bank, vice president of the Central Savings Bank, with combined assets of \$60,000,000. I am authorized, not by a written letter but by phone and personal request, to represent other banks in the immediate vicinity of East Bay, aggregating about \$95,000,000, so I speak for banks right around my own vicinity with assets of \$155,000,000. Mr. Chairman, I want to continue what I said last night in a rather imperfect way, that the delegation from California owes this committee the deepest obligation for its kindly consideration and patient hearing. We came a long way to talk to you, which would emphasize without any words of mine our deep interest in the matter which is in your hands to decide.

Mr. Drum yesterday complained with reference to the hearings that he had no opportunity given him at any of those hearings to hear his side of the question. Mr. Drum was present at one hearing in the House and made a second appearance at the hearing in the Senate and I am very sure his complaints are made more in the heat of advocacy than on cool reflection concerning the facts and I want to say to him, and any other gentlemen present, including Senator Flint, that if in the earnestness of advocacy one word or one tittle dropped from me that they may think is any personal reflection on them, it will not be so, and as to anyone knowing me as they do, I think it would take a good deal to convince them that I intended it.

You have all read of the prodigal; you have all seen the picture, and as they were speaking here and have all been talking here in this hearing about the State bank being adopted into the Federal reserve system, I thought of that picture when the fatted calf was killed and the boy who helped to fatten that calf stayed at home, was in the background. It is for that boy or that range of banks that I speak