

European Press On Miller Appointment

Les Echos, French financial daily, Dec. 30: "The U.S. President has appointed an advocate of growth, Mr. Miller, as chairman of the Federal Reserve," by Tristan Doelnitz:

...(Miller's appointment) has been warmly welcomed by the spokesmen of the business community, including Mr. Heath Larry, chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, Chase Manhattan Bank President David Rockefeller, as well as by the influential chairman of the House Banking Committee, Henry Reuss.

...William Miller is considered as a centrist as far as economic and monetary ideas are concerned, halfway between Arthur Burns' conservatism and Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal's liberalism... He is referred to as a 'moderate conservative' who is however aware of social problems...

...Mr. Miller is president of the prestigious Conference Board... Now, what Jimmy Carter badly needed was to recover the deeply shattered confidence of the 'big business.'...

Mr. Miller has the opportunity of becoming (President Carter's) closest collaborator in the economic field. In this respect, he could take the seat left vacant by Bert Lance...

Le Monde, Dec. 30, article bylined by Washington correspondent Michel Tatu:

...According to the Washington Post the choice of Miller is largely due to Vice President Mondale who, with the agreement of Mr. Carter, has set to himself two objectives: Burns's successor was to be a businessman, but also a man with "a social conscience." Now, in his capacity of chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen Mr. Miller supervised a summer job program for youth. In the 1960s he was also a member of a commission for equality in employment opportunities... Over the last year Mr. Miller has come out in favor of a relaunching of the economy and of tax deductions for corporations...

Therefore we can expect him to be more "laxist" than Mr. Burns...

...Mr Burns' departure is nonetheless regretted by some. As DuPont chairman Mr. Shapiro said: "Given the fact that the President decided not to reappoint Mr. Burns as chairman of the Fed, we applaud the choice of Mr. Miller."

Financial Times, London, "Dollar falls in reaction to Fed Change" by Michael Blandon Dec. 30:

The main fall in the dollar had taken place overnight in New and Far East tradings. The markets were concerned over the departure of Dr. Burns, regarded as the main bulwark of strict monetary and fiscal policy in the U.S.

His successor, chief executive of the Textron conglomerate, has little banking experience and is little known in exchange market circles. International bankers in London, however, indicated confidence in his appointment.

Financial Times, London, "Challenges for the new man at the Fed" by David Bell, in Washington, Dec. 30:

For Mr. Carter, who sets great store by symbols, Mr. Miller's greatest asset is no doubt that he is acceptable, and has already been warmly received by the powerful group within the Democratic Party that so opposed Dr. Burns. This group — congressmen, labour and black — has lately been very restive and would never have forgiven the President if he had reappointed Dr. Burns or chosen someone else in his image.

The Times, London, "Widespread welcome for the new Fed chief" from David Cross, Washington, Dec. 30:

Mr. Miller tends to suggest he will be more liberal. In a speech in Pittsburgh last January he said he supported a broad new economic stimulus programme to create more jobs, asserting that this need not hamper the continuing fight against inflation.

He also suggested the government should consider preparing "selective" government controls on the economy as "acceptable medicine" when "mushrooms of inflation" popped up. And he supported new tax cuts for industry.

Die Welt, Hamburg, Jan. 3:

An article by Die Welt's Washington correspondent, Horst Siebert, reports that "resistance to Miller is still strong," and that Wall Street does not like Miller at all.

NYT Gloats:

Miller Appointment A Blumenthal Victory

For the New York Times the big story was not why President Carter nominated monetarist Textron Corporation head, G. William Miller as chairman of the Federal Reserve but who influenced that decision. In its Dec. 20 front-page article hailing Miller's appointment, the Times down-played Miller's corporate background in favor of emphasizing his support: "Although Dr. Burns wanted to stay on... the President was under strong pressure from Vice-President Mondale, Treasury Secretary Blumenthal.. to bring new leadership to the central bank."

On Dec. 30 the Times could not restrain itself; a second front-page article's headline gloated: "Blumenthal Victor in Miller Choice." The article focused on the alliance between Blumenthal and Mondale that influenced Carter's selection of Miller.

Just what is it that the Times is so happy about, was hinted at in the paper's profile of Miller buried in the business section Dec. 29. Designating him a "decisive corporate humanist," the article reports his long-term concern has been "the danger of American business leaders seeking to maximize profits at the expense of human and spiritual values." In keeping Miller's "non-materialist" bent, the Times reports that Miller has retained a 30-year interest in Maoist China, the bulwark of primitive technology and labor-intensive methods of production.