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# WASHINGTON NEWS

An Associated Press dispatch says: Former Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, submitted to the national monetary commission, of which he is chairman, a revision of his plan for monetary legislation. The commission may use it as the basis for its recommendations to congress. The basic principles of the revised plan are substantially the same as those embodied in Mr. Aldrich's first proposal sent to the commission last January, which he said he expected would serve as a basis for national discussion. Important phases which were then unsettled and those which have since been evolved are treated in the recommendations now sent to the commissions. Most of the questions are handled with great detail as the result of discussions and conferences which have been going since the plan was first suggested.

Briefly the plan still provides for the organization of the national reserve association, with a capital approximated at \$300,000,000, of which the United States government and the banks owning shares in the association shall be the only depositors.

The plan of dividing the United States at first into fifteen financial districts remains unchanged. In each district the banks shall form local associations of their own, which in turn will be represented in the branches and finally in the central organization through a system of directors, which, it is said, will make it impossible for any section or set of bankers to control the whole.

To provide for the \$730,000,000 of 2 per cent government bonds now owned by the national banks, and used as the basis of note circulation, which are to be absorbed by the reserve association, the following plan is proposed:

Upon the application of the reserve association the secretary of the treasury shall exchange the 2 per cent bonds, which the association shall buy from the banks at par and accrued interest for a new issue of 3 per cent securities, payable fifty years after the date of issue.

The reserve association will pay to the government a special franchise tax of 1 1/2 per cent per year on the amount of such bonds, as the government's actual interest charge on the 2 per cents is now actually 1 1/2 per cent. Since the banks pay back a half of 1 per cent as a tax when the bonds are used as the basis of note circulation, this will reimburse the government for the extra interest it will be called upon to pay as a result of exchanging the two for threes.

One effect of the exchange will be to enable the government to provide permanently for a large portion of the interest bearing public debt at a net interest of 1 1/2 per cent. This arrangement proposes a solution of what many financiers declared the greatest obstacle to the plan. It disposes permanently of the bond secured currency without loss to the government and without imposing upon the reserve association the ownership of the \$730,000,000 two per cent bonds. The association will agree to hold the 3 per cents for fifty years, but the secretary of the treasury, after fifty years, will have the option of permitting the association to sell the securities at a rate not greater than \$50,000,000 a year. The government may reserve the right to redeem any of the bonds before maturity, to buy any of them at par for the trustees of the postal savings system or otherwise.

Provisions for the election of directors have been changed in the revised plan with the idea of minimizing the possibility of control by any section or group. There still will be forty-five directors as in the original plan, six members ex-officials, viz., the governor of the association, his two deputies, the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of commerce and labor and the comptroller of the currency. Each of the fifteen financial districts of this country will elect one director; twelve others will be elected by the share-holders, and these twenty-seven will elect to the board twelve additional members, who shall not be officers of banks, but may be directors in them, and who shall fairly represent the industrial, agricultural, commercial and other interests of the country.

The completed plan provides that of the twenty-four directors in the latter groups, not more than three may be elected from any one district.

As an instance, the effect of this provision would be to limit the state of New York, which has about one-fifth of the banking capital of the country, and which is the seat of the great financial interests, to four directors among the thirty-nine who are elected.

In the organization of the executive committee of nine members, upon which it has been said much of the active management of the association would fall, only one of the five elected members, the other four being the governor of the association, his two deputies and the comptroller of the currency, ex-officials, may be chosen from any one district. The whole board of directors may reserve to itself any authority it desires, and is not bound to vest the executive committee with full control.

The original plan provided that the governor of the association should be appointed by the president of the United States from a list of names submitted by the board of directors, and the president should also have power to remove the governor. The revised plan reserves the right of removal to a two-thirds vote of the board.

One important change is made in the admission to membership of state banks and trust companies which conform to a required standard. A state bank or trust company to be eligible must conform to the same standard as national banks regarding the relation of its capital to the population of the community it serves, or regarding the reserves to be held against deposits, and must conform to a certain standard regarding examinations and reports.

Requirements for reserves to be held against deposits are made the same for national banks, state banks and trust companies, but the present reserve requirements of national banks are modified to the extent of requiring no reserves against time deposits, except for thirty days preceding their maturity. This provision, which resembles those in the trust company laws of some states, is expected to make it more profitable for national banks to hold time deposits in competition with trust companies. Banks of all classes will have the full use of time deposits without reserve restrictions until thirty days from maturing time, when standard reserves will be required.

A provision that the association shall discount for any member notes and bills of exchange arising out of commercial transactions is further

developed in the line of preventing the granting of loans on securities.

The notes and bills eligible for discount by the association are restricted to such notes and bills of exchange as are "issued or drawn for agricultural, industrial or commercial purposes and not for carrying stocks, bonds or other investment securities." This interpretation will include bankers' notes for carrying stocks. Banks, under this provision, it is said, will be encouraged to carry their auxiliary reserves in commercial paper, instantly convertible into cash instead of in call loans on the stock market.

National banks will have the right to establish savings departments and to lend not more than 4 per cent of such deposits upon any protected real estate loans not exceeding 50 per cent of the value of the property. The national bank act now prohibits such loans, but there is a constant demand for them, especially in the west. Savings deposits in any of the banks in the association shall be subject to thirty days' notice before withdrawal and shall be covered by a reserve of 40 per cent of that required for demand deposits in the same locality.

For the reserves of the association it is proposed that 50 per cent of its demand liabilities, including deposits and note issues, shall be covered by gold or other lawful money, with a provision that whenever the reserve falls below 50 per cent the association is bound to pay to the government a special tax which increases in rate in proportion to the deficiency. The operation of this plan in such instances is expected to stimulate an increase in the rate of discount and to bring in gold until the reserves again become normal.

Another new provision specifies that any local association may assume and exercise the powers and functions of a clearing house. In this respect some existing clearing houses (Continued on Page 14.)

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