



THOMAS BOMAR
A big 'coincidence'

A Decision For Friends Of Rebozo

Washington

Vital federal insurance was granted after having been denied twice for a savings bank whose directors include two associates of President Nixon's close friend, Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, it was learned yesterday.

The insurance was approved by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board on July 19, about six weeks after Nixon appointee Thomas R. Bomar became board chairman.

The savings bank is located in a building owned by Rebozo in Key Biscayne, Fla., where Mr. Nixon maintains a vacation home.

The directors of the savings bank include two men who are also directors of a commercial bank operated by Rebozo, the Key Biscayne Bank and Trust Co. Rebozo himself is not a director of the savings bank.

The directors who serve on both bank boards are Thomas H. Wakefield and Walter Etling. The savings bank is the Key Biscayne Savings and Loan Association.

A board spokesman said that the insurance was approved under Bomar after

being denied under two previous board chairmen last March and in 1972. The spokesman described the matter as "a big coincidence."

He said Bomar took a more liberal attitude toward new savings banks, which are a major source of home lending money.

Asked why the federal insurance would be granted now, the spokesman said "the need was not as clearly established before as it was now."

PROTECTION

The insurance protects against loss of up to \$20,000 in deposits.

A source close to the bank board said federal insurance would be vital to the successful operation of a savings bank in Florida because depositor confidence in savings institutions in that state without federal insurance is historically very low.

The insurance was approved several months after the federal office of the comptroller denied applications to establish a commercial bank in Key Biscayne that would compete with a Rebozo bank.

In denying the application, the comptroller's office overruled a field examiner's recommendation for approval.

A source close to the bank board said granting the federal insurance was unusual in two ways.

He said Florida has only a handful of state chartered savings banks with federal insurance.

POLICY

He also said board policy discourages the presence of commercial bank directors on boards of directors of savings banks.

"Ordinarily it is something the board wants an explanation of," he said "The general policy of the board has been against interlocking directorates."

A board spokesman said such matters are "a judgmental value . . . It was not felt there was much danger of a complete domination."

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