

Press Releases

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OTS 96-43 - Fiechter to Resign From OTS; To Take World Bank Position

Office of Thrift Supervision

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FIECHTER TO RESIGN FROM OTS; TO TAKE WORLD BANK POSITION

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 21, 1996 -- Jonathan L. Fiechter, 48, announced today he will resign as acting director of the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), effective Sept. 4, 1996, to accept a senior position with the World Bank in Washington.

Fiechter, who has been OTS acting director since Dec. 4, 1992, will become director of the Financial Sector Development Department (FSD) at the World Bank. FSD supports the work of the bank and its client countries in strengthening financial institutions, reforming and rebuilding banking systems, promoting development of capital markets and the building of modern payment, settlement and clearance systems.

Fiechter is leaving at a time when the thrift industry regulated by OTS is in sound financial condition. The agency itself, he said, is also "on a solid financial foundation, its credibility rebuilt and agency matters in good hands."

He praised the OTS staff -- "I say without equivocation that OTS is doing a great job. In meeting after meeting with senior executives of thrift institutions, I have been told how professional our supervisory process is and how constructive the examination process has become." He expressed appreciation for the "dedication and hard work of the agency staff" and the support given him under often difficult and frustrating conditions, caused largely by the question of the agency's future.

"The future of the thrift industry and of OTS remains uncertain," he asserted. "Both would benefit greatly from a definitive strategy. The continuing uncertainty, which makes planning extremely difficult for the industry and the agency, is unproductive. I hope that appropriate action will be forthcoming soon."

As he has done for more than two years, Fiechter urged Congress and the Administration to promptly resolve the capitalization of the Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAIF) and the attendant funding problem of the Financing Corporation (FICO) bonds. He said, "A workable

proposal has been constructed, and now it remains for the political decision to be made to adopt the plan and resolve the two issues."

Fiechter became acting director upon the departure of the agency's first director, Timothy Ryan, who took office in April 1990. Fiechter, a career government executive, served as a senior manager in the supervisory arm of the Federal Home Loan Bank System in late 1987 and joined OTS when it was formed in 1989.

Before that, he served in the Treasury Department for eight years and nine years at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), which, like OTS, is a Treasury bureau.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS' mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of thrift institutions and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. For copies of news releases or other documents call PubliFax at 202/906-5660, or visit the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.