

TV GROWS UP What's behind the networks' new gray-

MILITARY RETIREMENT

haired look

The sometimes difficult switch from uniform to civilian clothes

THE SEASONED EYE II

First photos from our touring exhibit

IN YOUR COPY OF THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE

Congress bolsters ailing S & Ls, takes steps to protect customers

Congress has passed legislation that will enable federal regulators to rescue troubled savings and loan institutions.

The legislation—which President Reagan has signed—is the most comprehensive banking bill enacted by Congress in five years and includes many provisions that protect the consumer of financial services.

The legislation does the following:

 allows the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. (FSLIC) to sell \$10.8 billion in bonds to subsidize the takeover of financially ailing savings and loans by healthier savings and loans or pay off depositors should that become necessary;

• provides an eventual phase-out of a mandate that federal regulators be lenient to savings and loans suffering from a downturn in the economy rather than from bad management or fraud:

• allows commercial and non-bank financial companies to acquire financially ailing savings and loan associations with assets of \$500 million or more.

This banking bill also protects de-

positors from the 'float' [banks holding checks] by ensuring quicker crediting of their accounts.

Starting on September 1, 1988, this bill would require banks to make funds available to depositors on local checks after two intervening business days. After two years, this time interval would be reduced to one intervening business day.

Out-of-town checks could be held by banks for a maximum of six intervening business days starting September 1, 1988, being reduced to four intervening business days after two years.

All banks would be required to provide next day availability of funds for cash deposits, government checks such as Social Security checks, wire transfers, and for checks deposited in one branch and drawn from another.

Another provision of this bill would make depositors feel safe and secure about their savings accounts in banks and savings and loans and reduce their fears about the financially ailing thrift system.

"It's as close to Fort Knox as we

can get," declared Rep. Edward R. Roybal (D-Calif.), referring to the full faith and credit provision contained in the House-passed bill. This provision reaffirms that deposits up to \$100,000 in federally insured banks and savings and loans and credit unions are backed by the U.S. government. This bill also mandates that the lender must impose a lifetime cap on any adjustable rate mortgage (a mortgage that has an interest rate that fluctuates) for either a home equity loan or a regular home loan and inform the borrower of this during the application process.

In addition, this bill would close the existing loophole for non-bank banks. These financial institutions either offer checking or make commercial loans. By offering only one service, they avoid federal restrictions pertaining to who can own a full-service bank and where these banks can oper-

This bill would allow the existing 168 non-bank banks created before March 5, 1987, to continue to operate. After this date, the surviving nonbank banks couldn't offer any new services but could purchase a financially troubled savings and loan. After one year, the bill restricts the growth of these non-bank banks to 7 percent annual limit on asset growth.

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