

will take action to meet it, even though there may be a risk which we are not sure is going to be fulfilled of inflation, and which we hope may be offset by fiscal policy. This leads me to my last question, and that is, what does the Board have by way of priorities for guidance in reaching these decisions?

Do you have anything in writing on it, or is this something that is talked about from time to time?

What are the priorities?

Mr. MITCHELL. Well, I think the top priority is stability, and an equal priority is given to maximum growth.

Senator MILLER. The top priority is stability?

Mr. MITCHELL. Stability and growth.

Senator MILLER. But stability—

Mr. MITCHELL. I ought to define stability.

Senator MILLER. Yes.

Mr. MITCHELL. I mean economic stability, and then we believe, in order to achieve economic stability and maximum growth, we do need price stability.

Senator MILLER. Yes; and so it would seem to me that the No. 1 priority would be to hold down inflation.

Mr. MITCHELL. Well, Chairman Martin often says we are the only Government agency concerned with money exclusively, and therefore it has a high priority with us, but I think that is perfectly true.

Still, the larger goal I think of all economic stabilization is to provide the Employment Act for jobs and growth.

Senator MILLER. Yes; and one other thing, and that is stable money.

Mr. MITCHELL. Stable money, this is right.

Senator MILLER. Agreed. Now, when Congress legislated that, those were the two objectives, not one?

Mr. MITCHELL. That is right.

Senator MILLER. Full employment and a stable dollar?

Mr. MITCHELL. Yes.

Senator MILLER. I do not recall there was anything said in the legislative history indicating that the Board should give precedence to one over the other.

Mr. MITCHELL. There are times, you know, when you have to be more concerned about one than the other. Right now you have to be more concerned about price stability than you do about jobs, because there are more jobs than we can fill anyway.

Senator MILLER. It has been that way for quite some time now, has it not, the last 2 or 3 years, as I recall?

Mr. MITCHELL. Yes.

Senator MILLER. The rates have been pretty low?

Mr. MITCHELL. Very low.

Senator MILLER. But in other words, what you are really saying is that as far as the priorities are concerned, the Board is concerned with those two objectives?

Mr. MITCHELL. That is right.

Senator MILLER. As national economic policy?

Mr. MITCHELL. That is right.

Senator MILLER. You may put one ahead of the other?

Mr. MITCHELL. It depends on the environment of the time.

Senator MILLER. At a certain particular period of time?