



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20551

November 2, 1976

CONFIDENTIAL (FR)
CLASS II FOMC

TO: Federal Open Market Committee SUBJECT: Formal FOMC votes
FROM: Arthur L. Broida *ALB* on longer-run growth ranges

At the July FOMC meeting the Committee agreed in principle that in the future it should adopt longer-run ranges for the monetary aggregates by formal vote, rather than, as had been the practice, by informal agreement. This memorandum has been prepared on the assumption that the Committee will vote formally on longer-run ranges in the telephone conference meeting planned for November 8. Its purpose is to indicate briefly the effects this change will have on reporting procedures.

Policy record. The formal vote will, of course, be recorded in the policy record, pursuant to a requirement of the Federal Reserve Act requiring inclusion of all votes on open market policies. At present a formal vote is shown for the domestic policy directive, but not for the longer-run targets (or short-run specifications).

Federal Register. The ranges adopted will be published in the Federal Register, pursuant to a requirement of the Freedom of

-2-

Information Act relating to "statements of general policy." At present only the domestic policy directive (and any changes in the foreign currency directive or in the domestic or foreign currency authorization) are published in the Register. The ranges might be transmitted to the Federal Register immediately after they are reported to the Congress in the course of the Chairman's testimony under House Concurrent Resolution 133.

Minutes of actions. The ranges adopted, and the vote on them, will be included in the minutes of actions, which are placed on file in the Board's Freedom of Information Office.^{1/} This is pursuant to a FOI Act requirement relating to "final votes of each agency member in every agency proceeding."

^{1/} Most items included in the minutes are placed on file the day after the meeting. The directive is withheld until shortly after the next meeting, when the corresponding policy record is released. Occasionally, other items (e.g., the September action concerning the System's debt to the Swiss National Bank) are withheld for time. The ranges would be withheld until after they have been reported to the Congress in the course of the Chairman's testimony.