

# Exim Staff Notes

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## Bankers' Conference

You might have been puzzled by the great influx of unfamiliar faces around the Bank on December 11. They belonged to commercial bankers on their way to the 1978 Annual Commercial Bankers' Conference held in the Lounge. This was the largest Exim-hosted conference ever—with more than 225 bankers from about 30 states here for morning and afternoon sessions.



Griff Ellison introduces Chairman John J. Moore, Jr., at the Bankers' Conference.



Some members of the audience at the Bankers' Conference, including Jack Bierman, Maggie Kahliff, Thibault de Saint Phalle, Bill Crist and Bob Charamella.



Chairman Moore temporarily blinded by a flash bulb.

## Vietnam-Era Veterans Get Increased Benefits

President Carter recently signed a law that increases benefits for Vietnam-era veterans by extending and liberalizing the Veterans' Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority.

First established in 1970, VRA provides improved Federal job opportunities along with training or education for Vietnam-era veterans who may have difficulty getting a job because of inadequate education, skills, training or experience. VRA also allows agencies to hire Vietnam-era veterans without competing in civil service examinations. If they satisfactorily complete two years of employment and training, they may be converted to career-conditional appointments.

The new law, signed on October 26, 1978, makes the following changes:

- Maximum grade of VRA appointment is raised from GS-5 to GS-7 or equivalent.
- Authority to make VRA appointments is extended to September 30, 1981.
- The 1-year time limit on VRA appointments is removed. (This makes all qualified Vietnam-era veterans eligible for a VRA appointment.)
- The 14-year education restriction for disabled veterans is removed.
- The type of discharge required for a VRA appointment is changed from "under honorable conditions" to "other than a dishonorable discharge."

For more information on the VRA program, call the Federal Job Information Center on 737-9616.