

THE BUSINESSMAN

Bush and his partners at Brown Brothers Harriman informed the government regulators that the account, opened in the late 1930s, was "an unpaid courtesy for a client. The situation," wrote Kranish, "grew more serious when the government seized Union's assets under the Trading with the Enemy Act, the sort of action that could have ruined Bush's political dreams." The phrase was an ominous one.

The client was believed to be a friend of Charles Lindbergh, according to Roland Harriman. Prescott Bush acted quickly and openly on behalf of the firm, served well by a reputation that had never been compromised. He made available all records and all documents. Viewed six decades later in the era of serial corporate scandals and shattered careers, he received what can be viewed as the ultimate clean bill.

A decade later when he ran for the Senate, his involvement in the bank went untouched by the press or his political opponents.

Earlier that year he had accepted the chairmanship of the USO (United Service Organizations.) He traveled the country over the next two years raising millions for the National War Fund and, as the *Boston Globe* noted, "putting himself on the national stage for the first time . . . (and) boosting the morale of U.S. troops." Out of adversity good things came.