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## Report from FFI

It's a small group. Most weddings have more people attending. But the heavy hitters are all here at [FFI](#). Last night as the meetings began, Treasury Secretary Geithner sat at a table with Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. At the same table were George Soros and Robert Rubin, in intense conversation. A table over sat Carlyle's David Rubenstein, with former SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt on one side of him and Roger Altman of Evercore Partners on the other side.

A row of tables back was bank analyst Meredith Whitney, and in the back row of the small room was author, Nassim Nicholas Taleb. It was a suit and tie crowd, except for Taleb who came sans tie, and like a true black swan was the only one to then take off his jacket. After a Geithner Q&A, Taleb was also the only one to leave. He left 5 minutes into Rudd's speech.

The staff is super attentive, I asked one staff member where the press room was. She smiled and said, "I'll be glad to take you there." She then walked me the three and a half feet to the press room.

The talk of yesterday's events was the impressive performance by WSJ's Alan Murray in questioning Geithner. I heard at least three others comment on his no punches pulled questioning.

Murray asked Geithner right out of the gate if Geithner thought banks would be willing to sell assets that weren't completely marked down. Geithner danced around the question, but on further Murray probing signalled that the Treasury was willing to pump more money into any bank that needed further capital--including if it is a result of liquidating assets via the Treasury plan. I took this to me that the Treasury is protecting all major banks currently standing, from failure.

From Geithner's comments, it's clear there's more regulation of the financial sector coming. You would have to think the people in the room will have major input on what the regulations will look like. Geithner also mentioned the upcoming G-20 meetings and the fact that any changes in regulation will have to be global in nature. My

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