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Issue 74-162

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U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

August 20, 1974

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUG 21 1974

HEARINGS ON COMMISSION RATES SCHEDULED

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The Commission announced that it will hold public investigatory hearings on a proposal by the New York Stock Exchange to increase the minimum rates of commission charged to non-members for exchange transactions in stocks, rights and warrants. The NYSE plans to have the economic data and the report in support of the increase completed during the first week in September. That report will be available to all interested persons in the Public Reference Section, Room 6101, 1100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 and at each of the Commission's regional offices. Persons who wish to obtain a copy of that report may do so by writing to Dr. William C. Freund, Vice President and Chief Economist, New York Stock Exchange, Inc., Eleven Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

The hearing will be held at the Commission's headquarters beginning September 24, 1974 at 10 a.m. Persons who wish to appear and present factual material at the hearing are invited to notify the hearing officer (William E. Toomey, Room 788, Securities and Exchange Commission, 500 North Capitol Street, Washington, D.C. 20549, (202) 755-1240) of that desire as soon as possible and not later than September 24, 1974. Witnesses will be expected to file with the hearing officer 25 copies of their prepared statements 48 hours prior to their appearance and are invited to make available additional copies at the time of their appearance for the benefit of the press and other interested persons.

Persons wishing to transmit written submissions for inclusions in the record in lieu of personally appearing should file 25 copies thereof to facilitate examinations of the record by all interested persons. Such material should be submitted not later than October 4, 1974. All other communications should be filed in triplicate. (Rel. 34-10977)

COURT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

COURT APPOINTS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR CAPITAL SYNDICATIONS COMPANY

The Fort Worth Regional Office announced that on August 8 the Federal District Court at Fort Worth, Texas appointed John B. McClane to serve as Special Counsel to one of the defendants, Capital Syndications Company. The Court also continued in effect all orders previously entered in the case. (SEC v. Capital Syndications, Incorporated, et al., N.D. Tex., FW Div.). (LR-6482)

THIRTEEN DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN FRAUDULENT SALES OF ELINVEST SECURITIES

The New York Regional Office announced that on August 9 a federal grand jury in New York returned indictments against thirteen individuals following an investigation by the New York Joint Strike Force, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the United States Postal Service. Named as defendants in the twenty-four count indictment were: Robin G. Baron, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, Eric Blitz, Tacoma, Washington; William Drew and John J. Santiago, also known as Sonny Santini, both of Brooklyn, New York; Erwin Gerstenzang, Little Neck, New York; Stephen R. Hill and Robert J. Rosan, both of New York, New York; Peter Horvat, Woodbridge, New Jersey; William McLeod, North Plainfield, New Jersey; Richard G. Orpheus, Flushing, New York; Peter B. Rosenthal, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Barry M. Ross, Fort Lee, New Jersey; and George C. Van Aken, Huntington, New York. Hill and Rosen are attorneys.

The defendants were charged with mail fraud, conspiracy to violate and substantive violations of the antifraud provisions of the Exchange Act in the purchase and sale of

shares of Elinvest, Inc. through price manipulation, false statements, undisclosed bribes and threats of physical violence. In addition, Horvat and Ross were charged with perjury in testimony before a federal grand jury concerning the alleged scheme, and Blitz was charged with accepting compensation other than brokerage salary or wages. (U.S. v. Robin G. Baron, et al., S.D.N.Y.). (LR-6483)

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT RELEASES

FIRST SPECTRUM FUND

A notice has been issued giving interested persons until September 16 to request a hearing on a proposal by the Commission to declare on its own motion that First Spectrum Fund, Inc. of New York has ceased to be an investment company. (Rel. IC-8466)

HOLDING COMPANY ACT RELEASES

THE COLUMBIA GAS SYSTEM

An order has been issued authorizing The Columbia Gas System, Inc., a registered holding company, to purchase all of the authorized stock of Columbia Alaskan Gas Transmission Corporation, a new subsidiary, for \$1,000,000. Columbia Alaskan will participate as a partner with other gas producers in a pipeline project for transmission of Alaskan and Arctic gas to Columbia's service area. (Rel. 35-18534)

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

A notice has been issued giving interested persons until September 9 to request a hearing on a proposal of General Public Utilities Corporation (GPU), and its subsidiary, Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec), to enter into a loan agreement with the Small Business Administration, and for Penelec to issue a first mortgage bond as security for the loan. (Rel. 35-18535)

NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY

An order has been issued authorizing New England Power Company, subsidiary of New England Electric System, to increase its unsecured borrowings. (Rel. 35-18536)

MIDDLE SOUTH UTILITIES, INC.

A notice has been issued giving interested persons until September 9 to request a hearing on a proposal by System Fuels, Inc., non-utility subsidiary of Middle South Utilities, Inc., to enter into a sale and leaseback arrangement with respect to three tow boats and sixteen barges (currently under construction) to be used by SFI to transport fuel oil for the Middle South System. (Rel. 35-18537)

UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

A notice has been issued giving interested persons until September 13 to request a hearing on a proposal by Utah Power & Light Company, an electric utility company and a registered holding company, that it sell up to 1,000,000 shares of its common stock through negotiation and that it sell up to \$40 million first mortgage bonds at competitive bidding. (Rel. 35-18538)

TRADING SUSPENSIONS

ADDITIONAL ACTION ON THREE TRADING SUSPENSIONS

The SEC has announced the suspension of exchange and over-the-counter trading in the securities of Equity Funding Corp., and over-the-counter trading in the securities of Zenith Development Corp. and Industries International, Inc. for the further ten-day period August 20 - 29, inclusive.

SECURITIES ACT REGISTRATIONS

(S-6) E. F. HUTTON TAX-EXEMPT FUND, NATIONAL SERIES 15

One Battery Park Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10004 - \$7,500,000 of units. The Fund is one of a series of unit investment trusts created under a trust indenture and agreement among E. F. Hutton & Company Inc., as sponsor, United States Trust Company of New York, as trustee and Standard & Poor's Corporation, as evaluator. The Fund consists of interest-bearing obligations of states, counties, territories and municipalities of the United States and authorities or political subdivisions thereof, the interest on which is in the opinion of bond counsel, exempt from Federal income tax under existing law. (File 2-51752 - Aug. 12)

(S-1) PHOENIX EQUITY PLANNING CORP.

One American Row, Hartford, Conn. 06115 - \$500,000 of American Investment Annuity Programs, to be offered for sale in program units of \$10,000 minimum initial investment and subsequent minimum investments of \$1,000 through distributor-manager Constitution Securities Corporation, 1832 House, New Hartford, Conn. 06057. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company and is a registered investment adviser and broker-dealer. (File 2-51755 - Aug. 12)

(S-1) IOWA STEEL MILL, INC.

P.O. Box 495, Wilton, Iowa 52778 - \$8 million of subordinated debentures and 80,000 common stock purchase warrants (exercise price \$10 per share) to be offered in units, each consisting of a \$1,000 debenture and 10 warrants, at \$1,010 per unit for subscription by common shareholders of record August 30 at the rate of one unit per shareholder (primary right) with a secondary right to subscribe for units not subscribed for by exercise of primary rights on a first come first served basis. The subscription period shall remain open for a period of approximately 90 days after commencement of the offering. Development Securities Corporation, 1228 - 8th St., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265 is the underwriter. The company proposes to complete and operate a specialized type of steel mill known as a mini-mill for the production of hot-rolled merchant bars. (File 2-51756 - Aug. 13)

(S-1) FARMLAND INDUSTRIES, INC.

3315 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo. 64116 - \$400,000 of 7 1/2%, ten-year subordinated certificates of investment; \$500,000 of 8 1/2%, ten-year subordinated certificates of investment; \$5,000,000 of 8%, five-year subordinated capital investment certificates; \$1,000,000 of 8 1/2%, ten-year subordinated capital investment certificates; \$7,000,000 of 9%, fifteen-year subordinated capital investment certificates; \$15,000,000 of 9 1/2%, twenty-year subordinated capital investment certificates (these certificates sold in units of \$100); \$13,000,000 of 8 1/2%, ten-year subordinated monthly income capital investment certificates (this certificate sold in units of \$5,000 with increments of \$1,000) 120,000 shares of preferred stock (\$25 par); and 400 shares of common stock to be offered for sale by the company. The company is a farm supply and marketing cooperative. (File 2-51757 - Aug. 13)

(S-16) SPECTRO INDUSTRIES, INC.

Jenkintown Plaza, Jenkintown, Pa. 19046 - 147,000 shares of common stock, which may be offered for sale from time to time by certain selling stockholders at prices current at the time of sale. Spectro distributes pharmaceutical and toiletry items primarily at wholesale to retail drug stores, and distributes industrial sewing machine equipment to manufacturers. (File 2-51759 - Aug. 13)

(S-7) SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

328 Main St., Columbia, S.C. 29218 - 200,000 shares of common stock, to be offered to shareholders pursuant to a Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan. The company furnishes electricity and natural gas. (File 2-51760 - Aug. 13)

(S-1) LORAL CORPORATION

600 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016 - 97,820 rights to contingent payments. It is proposed to offer these rights to all stockholders and optionholders of Conic Corporation (Conic), other than the seven largest stockholders thereof, in exchange for the shares of the common stock of Conic owned by them or covered by their options, at the rate of one right to contingent payments for each share of common stock of Conic. Loral Corporation is engaged directly or through its subsidiaries in the businesses of defense electronics, plastic packaging and aerospace components. (File 2-51761 - Aug. 13)

(S-7) IDAHO POWER COMPANY

1220 Idaho St., P.O. Box 70, Boise, Idaho 83721 - \$50 million of first mortgage bonds, due 2004, to be offered for sale through underwriters to be selected. The company is a public utility engaged in the generation and sale of electric energy. (File 2-51762 - Aug. 13)

REGISTRATIONS EFFECTIVE

Aug. 19: Corometrics Medical Systems, Inc., 2-51447; Great Lake Financial Corp., 2-48889; H & R Block, Inc., 2-51630; Keene Corp., 2-51692; Taft Broadcasting Co., 2-51361; Volt Information Sciences, Inc., 2-50906; Zoller & Danneberg, Inc., 2-49990.

NOTICE

Many requests for copies of documents referred to in the SEC News Digest have erroneously been directed to the Government Printing Office. Copies of such documents and of registration statements may be ordered from the Public Reference Section, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549. The reproduction cost is 15¢ per page plus postage (\$2 minimum) and 30¢ per page plus postage for expedited handling (\$5 minimum). Cost estimates are given on request. All other referenced material is available in the SEC Docket.

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SEC DOCKET is published weekly. Subscription rates: \$21.35/yr in U.S. first class mail, \$26.70 elsewhere. The News Digest and the Docket are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.