

to the limitations established by the Board in its previous orders.

Notificant also takes the position that the proposed acquisition will benefit the public. Notificant states that the expected benefits to the public include increased competition, expanded products and services, and gains in efficiency. The proposed acquisition also would allow Notificant to offer customers expanded services at competitive costs. Notificant also maintains that the proposed activities would not result in any adverse effects.

In publishing the proposal for comment, the Board does not take a position on issues raised by the proposal. Notice of the proposal is published solely in order to seek the views of interested persons on the issues presented by the notice, and does not represent a determination by the Board that the proposal meets or is likely to meet the standards of the BHC Act.

Any comments or requests for hearing should be submitted in writing and received by William W. Wiles, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551, not later than August 21, 1996. Any request for a hearing on this proposal must, as required by § 262.3(e) of the Board's Rules of Procedure (12 C.F.R. 262.3(e)), be accompanied by a statement of the reasons why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal. The notice may be inspected at the offices of the Board of Governors or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 1, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 96-20054 Filed 8-6-96; 8:45am]

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### Notice of Proposals To Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or To Acquire Companies That Are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity

that is listed in § 225.25 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.25) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the notice has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act, including whether consummation of the proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices" (12 U.S.C. 1843). Any request for a hearing on this question must be accompanied by a statement of the reasons a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than August 21, 1996.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Kenneth R. Binning, Director, Bank Holding Company) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105:

1. *BankAmerica Corporation*, San Francisco, California; through its wholly-owned leasing subsidiary, Security Pacific Leasing Corporation, San Francisco, California, to enter into a general partnership with DFO Holding Company, Inc., San Francisco, California, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ford Motor Credit Corporation, Dearborn, Michigan. The resulting partnership, DFO Partnership, will be formed solely to manage a fixed portfolio of leases contributed to the partnership by Security Pacific Leasing Corporation and Ford Motor Credit Corporation, all pursuant to § 225.25(b)(5) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 1, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson

*Deputy Secretary of the Board*

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### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for the Proposed Paperwork Renewal of the SF 278 Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report

**AGENCY:** Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Government Ethics has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the Standard Form (SF) 278 Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report which OGE sponsors for a three-year extension of approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The SF 278 is henceforth to be accompanied by agency notification to filers of certain modified reporting requirements not yet incorporated into the form itself; OGE also intends to work on a future modified form to eventually replace the existing SF 278.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposal should be received by September 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503; telephone: 202-395-7316.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William E. Gressman, Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy, Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917; telephone: 202-208-8000 (ext. 1110), FAX: 202-208-8037. A blank SF 278 form may be obtained, without charge, by contacting Mr. Gressman.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Government Ethics has submitted to OMB, for three-year approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the existing SF 278 Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OMB control number 3209-0001), without change, for a three-year extension of approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). The current paperwork approval for the SF 278 is scheduled to expire at the end of

September 1996. Since, for now (see discussion below), no modification to the standard form is being proposed, OGE will not need to seek General Services Administration (GSA) clearance for the request for extension of OMB paperwork approval.

On March 6, 1996, OGE published an advance paperwork notice of its forthcoming request for three-year extension of paperwork approval for the SF 278 (see 61 FR 8941-8942). Just one comment, from an executive branch department, was received based on that advance notice. The department offered to provide OGE detailed comments were OGE to seek legislative changes to improve the nature and process of information collected by the SF 278 under the Ethics Act financial disclosure provisions. As OGE indicated in the advance notice, for now OGE is not proposing any changes to the existing SF 278 report form, though it is asking agencies to provide updating notices to filers of certain changes in the Ethics Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act (see the discussion below). Moreover, OGE does not intend at this time to seek any legislative changes to the Ethics Act financial disclosure provisions (indeed, the law was recently amended, not at OGE's request, to require more detailed reporting of certain higher-valued items). Therefore, OGE has determined to proceed with submission of the SF 278 as is to OMB for renewal of paperwork approval. However, OGE has also indicated that it will consider improvements to the SF 278 in the future and the commenting department's further input can take place at that time along with that of other interested agencies and the public.

As noted in the advance FR notice, OGE, as the supervising ethics office for the executive branch of the Federal Government under the Ethics in Government Act (the "Ethics Act"), is the sponsoring agency for the SF 278, the most recent edition of which is that of June 1994 (the existing paperwork clearance, for which OGE now is requesting a three-year extension, is good through the end of September 1996). The prior January 1991 edition of the SF 278 also remains usable until supplies are exhausted. In accordance with section 102 of the Ethics in Government Act, 5 U.S.C. app., 102, and OGE's implementing financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634, the SF 278 collects pertinent financial information from certain officers and high-level employees in the executive branch for conflicts of interest review and public disclosure. The financial information collected under the statute and regulations relates to:

assets and income; transactions; gifts, reimbursements and travel expenses; liabilities; agreements or arrangements; outside positions; and compensation over \$5,000 paid by a source—all subject to various reporting thresholds and exclusions.

The SF 278 is completed by candidates, nominees, new entrants, incumbents and terminees of certain high-level positions in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The Office of Government Ethics, along with the agencies concerned, conducts the review of the SF 278 reports of Presidential nominees subject to Senate confirmation. This group of nominee reports forms the basis of OGE's paperwork estimates. In light of OGE's experience over the past three years (1993-1995), the estimate of the total number, on average, of such nominees' SF 278 forms expected to be filed annually at OGE by members of the public (as opposed to current Federal employees), primarily by private citizen nominees and private representatives (lawyers, accountants, brokers and bankers) of both private citizen and Federal employee nominees, remains 280. The estimated average amount of time to complete the report form, including review of the instructions, is also the same—three hours. Thus, the overall estimated annual public burden for the SF 278 for the nominee report forms processed at the Office of Government Ethics will stay at 840 hours. Moreover, OGE estimates, based on the agency ethics program questionnaire responses for 1995, that some 21,700 SF 278 report forms are filed annually at departments and agencies throughout the executive branch. Most of those executive branch filers are current Federal employees at the time they file, but certain candidates for President and Vice President, nominees, new entrants and terminees complete the form either before or after their Government service. The percentage of private citizen filers branchwide is estimated at no more than 5% to 10%, or some 1,085 to 2,160 at most.

The Office of Government Ethics is asking executive branch departments and agencies to notify filers of the SF 278 of certain recent changes in the reporting law as regards higher-category (over \$1,000,000) assets, income and liabilities. In addition, OGE itself will notify concerned filers holding qualified blind trusts of a modification as to reportable trust interests. See sections 20 and 22 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, Public Law 104-65, which amended the Ethics in Government Act. It does not appear at this time that there

will be a need to modify the gifts/reimbursement reporting thresholds, since the "minimal value" threshold as determined by the General Services Administration in consultation with the Secretary of State under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, 5 U.S.C. 7342, is likely to remain under \$250 for the next three years, 1996-1998 (the Ethics Act reporting thresholds are pegged to any increase over \$250 of "minimal value"). In the next year or two, OGE intends to begin work on an eventual successor form to the current version of the SF 278 that would reflect these recent changes as well as add express mention, on the public burden information block, of a statement pursuant to the 1995 amendments to the paperwork law to the effect that "an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number," together with a parenthetical mention that such number is displayed in the upper right-hand corner of the front page of the form. Serious consideration will also be given to any other appropriate changes, including possible redesign of the form at that time. That future form may either be a modified standard form or a new OGE form and will be subject to appropriate clearances before issuance. Again, for now, OGE is not proposing to modify the SF 278 report form itself, but rather will ask that departments and agencies notify their filers of the modifications to the reporting requirements and new paperwork statement when the existing SF 278 forms are provided for completion (OGE will notify concerned filers of the changes as to qualified blind trust interests).

Based on an OGE request last year as approved by the General Services Administration, the SF 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report can now be electronically duplicated without standard form exception clearance pursuant to GSA's Federal Information Resources Management Regulation Bulletin B-3, as revised, provided that the bulletin's strict duplication standards (precisely paralleling the original paper form to the extent feasible) are complied with. Thus, departments and agencies can develop their own electronic SF 278 forms. The Office of Government Ethics also intends to develop a stand-alone electronic SF 278 form that would be made available free of charge or at cost to executive branch departments and agencies. In addition, that electronic version of the form could be placed on OGE's electronic bulletin board entitled

“The Ethics Bulletin Board System” (TEBBS). For now, OGE notes that even with these electronic initiatives, the SF 278 reports, once completed, will still need to be printed out and signed manually. Electronic filing is not authorized at this time for the SF 278s.

Public comment is invited on each aspect of the SF 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report as set forth in this notice, including specifically views on the need for and practical utility of this collection of information, the accuracy of OGE’s burden estimate, the potential for enhancement of quality, utility and clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology). The Office of Government Ethics, in consultation with OMB, will consider all comments received in response to this notice. The comments will also become a matter of public record.

Approved: August 1, 1996.

Stephen D. Potts,

Director, Office of Government Ethics.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[30 DAY-18]

**Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Office on (404) 639-7090. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer, Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

The following requests have been submitted for review since the last publication date on August 2, 1996.

**Proposed Projects**

1. Case-Control Study of the Effect of Total Dietary Folate Intake on the Clinical Manifestation of Vitamin B 12 Deficiency—New—Fortification of grain products with folic acid has been recommended to increase the intake of folate by women of reproductive age in order to decrease the risk of neural tube

birth defects. Fortification high enough to increase the passive consumption of folic acid to the recommended level of 400 ug/day for all women would increase the consumption by some segments of the population to well over the presumed safe upper limit of 1000 ug/day. There is concern, based on case reports, that excess folate consumption may delay the diagnosis of vitamin B 12 deficiency, especially in the elderly. Delayed diagnosis of B 12 deficiency may lead to the development of neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms, some of which may be irreversible. There is no population-based estimate of the prevalence of B 12 deficiency among the elderly, nor is there any population-based data on the frequency with which diagnosis of B 12 deficiency is complicated by folate intake. The Food and Drug Administration has postponed folate fortification pending more data on the potential risks of high levels of folate consumption for the general population.

This is a pilot study to determine the size, feasibility, cost and duration of a population-based survey; the population-based survey would estimate the prevalence of vitamin B 12 deficiency in the general population and estimate the impact of folate intake on its diagnosis. This information is needed to assess the risk that may be posed by high levels of fortification of the food supply with folate.

The proposed pilot study will seek to identify new cases of B 12 deficiency from the computerized laboratory records of a health maintenance organization, determine the nature of the clinical presentation of the cases by medical record review, and evaluate the association of folic acid intake with type of clinical presentation by dietary assessment. 70 individuals with B 12 deficiency and 70 normal controls will participate in a telephone interview about their diet and use of nutritional supplements in the year preceding the diagnosis.

Respondents	No. of respondents	Responses/ respondent	Average burden/ response (in hrs.)
Cases w/ B 12 deficiency	70	1	1
Normal controls ....	70	1	1

The total annual burden is 140.

2. Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance (SHAS)—Extension—

(0920-0262) There continues to be significant interest from public health, community, minority groups, and affected groups in obtaining more information on persons with HIV/AIDS infection. Since 1989, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with 12 state and local health agencies, has collected data through the national Supplemental HIV/AIDS Surveillance (SHAS) project. The objective of this project is to obtain increased descriptive information on persons with newly reported HIV and AIDS infections, including socioeconomic characteristics, risk behaviors, use of health care services, women’s reproductive history and children’s health, and information on disabilities. This information supplements information that is routinely collected through national HIV/AIDS surveillance. The information gained from SHAS is used to improve our understanding of minority issues related to the epidemic of HIV, target educational efforts to prevent transmission, and improve services for persons with HIV disease.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/ respondent	Average burden/ response (in hrs.)
Georgia ...	409	1	0.75
California	325	1	.75
Michigan	164	1	.50
New Mexico .....	83	1	.75
Arizona ...	283	1	.75
Colorado	168	1	.75
Connecticut .....	213	1	.75
Delaware	202	1	.50
Florida .....	261	1	.50
So. Carolina .....	206	1	.50
New Jersey .....	224	1	.75
Washington .....	146	1	.75

The total annual is 1,806.

3. Examination of Barriers to Participant Compliance in a Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Screening Program, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, United Kingdom—New—As part of an existing screening program, there is significant project savings in this initiative. Colorectal cancer accounts for approximately 9% of all newly diagnosed cancer worldwide. Of all cancer mortality in industrialized nations, colorectal cancer is second only to lung cancer, with the U.S. and Great Britain among the highest in this category. Despite increasing evidence that the early diagnosis of colorectal