

The Commission would welcome comments from any carrier, shipper, or other party on the details or effects of these issues.

4. Vessel Agency Services

The Commission would also benefit from comments on the apparent Chinese restriction on foreign firms offering vessel agency services. It appears that China requires U.S. carriers to deal with PENAVICO (a subsidiary of COSCO) or China Marine Service (a subsidiary of China National Foreign Trade Transportation (Group) Corporation ("Sinotrans")). The fact that "[f]oreign shipping companies may select freely any shipping agencies for services, provided that these agencies are entitled to perform their services for foreign vessels," as the Chinese delegation remarked, appears to be of little consequence if only Chinese government-owned vessel agency services have such approval. Similarly, our concerns are not allayed by the Chinese assertions in bilateral maritime discussions that Chinese vessel agency companies are "entirely independent from their parent companies," as Chinese carriers face no similar restrictions in the United States.

It would be beneficial to determine exactly what the legal bases are for the exclusion of U.S. carriers from this market in China; what specific services are at issue; what the commercial impact of the restrictions may be; and whether Chinese carriers perform such services for themselves in this country.

Now Therefore, it is Ordered, that this Notice of Inquiry be published in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Joseph C. Polking,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-22112 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*)

the Commission is directed to address conditions unfavorable to shipping in the foreign trade; that all non-Chinese carriers in the trade are subject to the same unfavorable conditions would appear to augment rather than lessen the effect of those conditions. Under the FSPA, the Commission is specifically directed to compare the treatment of U.S. carriers in a foreign country to the treatment of that country's carriers in the U.S., not to the treatment of other foreign lines abroad.

(BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than September 11, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *The George Family Partnership, Ltd.*, Bonifay, Florida; to become a bank holding company by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Bonifay Holding Company, Bonifay, Florida, and thereby indirectly acquire The Bank of Bonifay, Bonifay, Florida.

2. *South Alabama Bancorporation, Inc.*, Mobile, Alabama; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Commercial National Bank of Demopolis, Demopolis, Alabama.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (W. Arthur Tribble, Vice President) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201-2272:

1. *Sterling Bancshares, Inc.*, Houston, Texas, and Sterling Bancorporation, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Hometown Bancshares, Inc., Houston, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire Clear Lake National Bank, Houston, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 13, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-22218 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Monday, August 24, 1998.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.bog.frb.fed.us> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: August 14, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-22344 Filed 8-14-98; 3:34 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the FTC has forwarded the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below, involving a survey of rent-to-own customers, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden.

The FTC published a **Federal Register** notice soliciting comments from the public concerning the information collection requirements of the survey and providing the information required by 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(1)(iv). See 63 FR

25044 (May 6, 1998). Three organizations submitted comments that address concerns about the need for and the methodology of conducting the proposed survey. The Supporting Statement submitted to OMB discusses these comments in detail. The Supporting Statement and other documentation, including copies of the survey questionnaire, are available from the Bureau of Economics at the address provided below. This is another opportunity for the public to submit comments.

DATES: Comments on the proposed study must be submitted on or before September 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the following addresses: Edward Clarke, Senior Economist, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3228, Washington, DC 20503. Further information, comments, and requests for the proposed collection of information (supporting statement and questionnaire) should be directed to James M. Lacko, Deputy Assistant Director, Division of Consumer Protection, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Telephone: (202) 326-3387. E-mail: JLacko@FTC.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FTC proposes to survey rent-to-own customers in order to evaluate their experiences with rent-to-own transactions. The FTC will use this information to gain an understanding of the rent-to-own industry and consumer experiences with the industry, to assess potential consumer protection problems in the industry, and to inform possible future FTC policy. The FTC will collect this information on a voluntary basis and the identities of respondents will remain confidential.

The FTC proposes to contract with a survey firm to identify 300 to 500 rent-to-own consumers and to obtain briefly information about their experience with the rent-to-own industry. A screening process will identify rent-to-own survey respondents from a preexisting random digit dialing survey. Given the low (roughly 2%) incidence rate of rent-to-

own customers within the general population, the FTC estimates that approximately 20,000 people will be screened in order to obtain a sample of 300 to 500 customers.

The FTC will pretest the survey questionnaire on no more than 50 respondents to ensure that all questions are easily understood. The pretest will take approximately 10 minutes for each respondent, for a total of 8 hours. The final survey will involve 300-500 respondents, again for approximately 10 minutes each, for a total of 83 hours. Because a response from an individual will take no more than 10 minutes and will be voluntary, the cost burden per respondent will be negligible.

Pre-test questionnaire: Approximately 10 minutes \times 50 people = 8 hours.

Screening: One initial question within a random survey of 20,000 people (other topics are also submitted from third party entities). Approximately 30 seconds \times 20,000 people = 167 hours.

Questionnaire response: Approximately 300-500 consumers \times 10 minutes = 83 hours.

Total burden hours: Approximately 260.

Cost to Respondents: Negligible.

Debra A. Valentine,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-22155 Filed 8-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[INFO-98-26]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c) (2) (A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice. Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 60 days of the date of this publication.

Proposed Projects

1. Evaluation of The National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Internet site—New—The proposed research is to assure that intended audiences find the information on the Internet site developed by the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP), Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) easy to access, clear, informative and useful. Specifically, the research will examine whether the information is presented in an appropriate technological format and whether it meets the needs of "visitors" to the Internet site. Information on the site focuses on HIV prevention, care, and epidemiology. The site is designed to serve the general public, persons at risk for HIV infection, persons with HIV/AIDS, and health professionals.

The information generated from this research will enable DHAP to provide information on this Internet site that meets the needs, wants and preferences of the target audiences identified above. Additionally, the center is committed to developing a standardized process for including such audience testing in subsequent materials development projects. The proposed process will contribute to the foundation for establishing a standardized process for such assessment. The cost of the respondent is \$3,360

| Respondents | Number Of respondents | Number Of responses Per respondent | Average burden per response (in hrs) | Total burden (in hrs) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Visitors to NCHSTP/DHAP Internet site | 2400 | 10.1 | 240 | |