

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