Y (12 CFR 225.21(a)) to commence or to engage do novo, either directly or through a subsidiary, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.25 of Regulation Y as closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, such activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each application is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application 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 consummation of the proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, 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." 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 November 4, 1987.

A. **Federal Reserve Bank of New York** (William L. Rutledge, Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045:

1. *The Fuji Bank, Ltd.,* Tokyo, Japan; to engage *de novo* in providing data processing and data transmission services pursuant to § 225.25(b)(7) of the Board's Regulation Y. Comments on this application must be received by October 26, 1987.

B. **Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco** (Harry W. Green, Vice President) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105:

1. *Security Bank Holding Company,* Coos Bay, Oregon; to engage *de novo* through its subsidiary, Security Mortgage Company, Coos Bay, Oregon, in making, acquiring, or servicing loans or other extensions of credit for the subsidiary's account or the account of others, such as would be made by mortgage companies pursuant to § 225.25(b)(1) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 7, 1987.

James McAfee,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 87-23676 Filed 10-13-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-M

Formations of; Acquisitions by; and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies; Southwest Financial Group of Iowa, Inc., et al.

The companies listed in this notice have applied for the Board's approval under section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1842) and § 225.14 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.12) to become a bank holding company or to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in section 3(c) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Each application is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application 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 to the Reserve Bank or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Any comment on an application that requests a hearing must include a statement of why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute and summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received not later than November 4, 1987.

A. **Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** (David S. Epstein, Assistant Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690:

1. *Southwest Financial Group of Iowa, Inc.* Red Oak, Iowa; to become a bank holding company by acquiring at least 98.73 percent of the voting shares of Houthton State Bank, Red Oak, Iowa.

B. **Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis** (Randall C. Summer, Vice President) 411 Locust Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63166:

1. **First Commercial Corporation,** Little Rock Arkansas; to acquire at least 80 percent of the voting shares of First Security Corporation, Harrison, Arkansas, and thereby indirectly acquire The Security Bank, Harrison, Arkansas.

James McAfee,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 87-23677 Filed 10-13-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register.**

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period:

TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION BETWEEN: 091787 AND 100587

Name of acquiring person, name of acquired person, name of acquired entity	PMN No.	Date terminated
(1) United Stockyards Corporation, PON Partners, L.P., ESI Meats, Inc	87-2166	09/17/87
(2) TFBA Limited Partnership, Taft Broadcasting Company, Taft Broadcasting Company	87-2212	09/17/87
(3) WGHP Limited Partnership, American Financial Corporation, Taft Broadcasting Company	87-2246	09/17/87
(4) American Financial Corporation, TBFA L.P., TBFA, L.P	87-2247	09/17/87
(5) S.A. Vicat, Lafarge Coppee S.A., Lafarge Coppee S.A	87-2288	09/17/87
(6) Acadia Partners, L.P., Lear Siegler Holdings Corp., Precision Products Group	87-2307	09/17/87
(7) Carson Pirie Scott Company, Mr. Robert Campeau, Donaldsons Inc. and Donaldson's Distributing Corp	87-2314	09/17/87
(8) Sancorp, Joy Technologies, Inc., Joy Finance Company	87-2344	09/17/87
(9) Reed International P.L.C., Mr. Syd Silverman, Variety, Inc	87-2362	09/17/87
(10) Fresenius AG, Delmed, Inc., Delmed, Inc	87-2364	09/17/87
(11) Nikols spa, BMF Services, Inc., BMF Services, Inc	87-2365	09/17/87
(12) United States Leasing International, Inc., Southwest Airlines Co, TranStar Airlines Corporation	87-2384	09/17/87
(13) PS Group, Inc., Southwest Airlines Co., TranStar Airlines Corporation	87-2385	09/17/87
(14) Kubota, Ltd., MIPS Computer Systems, Inc., MIPS Computer Systems, Inc	87-2331	09/18/87
(15) Aon Corporation, Adams & Porter International, Inc., Adams & Porter International, Inc	87-2387	09/1w/87
(16) David F. Bolger, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Cleveland-Cliffs Inc	87-2287	09/22/87

TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION BETWEEN: 091787 AND 100587—Continued

Name of acquiring person, name of acquired person, name of acquired entity	PMN No.	Date terminated
(17) National Education Corporation, Mr. Kamal Alsultany, SCS Business & Technical Institute, Inc	87-2321	09/23/87
(18) GATX Corporation, Mobil Corporation, Wyco Pipe Line Company	87-2322	09/23/87
(19) North American Housing Corp., The Marley Company, Continental Home Division of The Marley Company	87-2370	09/23/87
(20) Cargill, Incorporated, The Quaker Oats Company, ACCO Feeds Holding Corp., ACCO Feeds, Inc	87-2279	09/24/87
(21) N.V. Koninklije Nederlandsche Petroleum Maatschappij, General Bio-Synthetics B.V., General Synthetics B.V	87-2315	09/24/87
(22) Koninklijke Gist-brocades, N.V., General Bio-Synthetics B.V., General Bio-Synthetics B.V	87-2316	09/24/87
(23) American Home Products Corporation, VLI Corporation, VLI Corporation	87-2318	09/24/87
(24) Kubota, Ltd., Dana Computer, Inc., Dana Computer, Inc	87-2332	09/24/87
(25) Crossland Savings, Donald L. Modglin, four subsidiaries	87-2345	09/24/87
(26) K mart Corporation, American Stores Company, Osco Drug, Inc	87-2366	09/24/87
(27) Tonka Corporation, Kenner Parker Toys Inc., Kenner Parker Toys Inc	87-2386	09/24/87
(28) Tonka Corporation, Kenner Parker Toys Inc., Kenner Parker Toys Inc	87-2388	09/24/87
(29) BBA Group Plc., Joy Technologies Inc., Ozone Industries Division	87-2393	09/24/87
(30) Ronald O. Perelman, Medical Laboratory Associates, Inc., Medical Laboratory Associates, Inc	87-2394	09/24/87
(31) Kirk Kerkorian, The Estate of Howard R. Hughes, Jr., The Estate of Howard R. Hughes, Jr	87-2396	09/24/87
(32) Hooker Corporation Limited, Domenico De Sole, B.A. Holdings, Inc	87-2398	09/24/87
(33) Mellon Bank Corporation, American Savings and Loan Association of Florida, American Savings and Loan Association of Florida	87-2402	09/24/87
(34) Prudential-Bache Energy Income Ltd. Partnership VP-18, Edwin L. Cox, Sr., Edwin L. Cox, Sr	87-2404	09/24/87
(35) Canadian National Railway Company, Alco Standard Corporation, Relco Financial Corp	87-2410	09/24/87
(36) Warburg, Pincus Capital Company, L.P., Herbert N. Somekh, and Denise D. Somekh, Hosiery Manufacturing Corp. of Morgantown	87-2415	09/24/87
(37) General American Life Insurance Company, Sanus Corp. Health Systems, Sanus Health Plan, Inc	87-2421	09/24/87
(38) New York Life Insurance Company, Sanus Corp. Health Systems, Sanus Corp. Health Systems	87-2422	09/24/87
(39) Grolier Incorporated, Lawrence A. Krames, M.D., Krames Communications	87-2430	09/24/87
(40) Warburg, Pincus Capital Company, L.P., Communications Satellite Corporation, Communications Satellite Corporation	87-2297	09/25/87
(41) IC Industries, GenCorp Inc, RKO Enterprises, Inc	87-2335	09/25/87
(42) "Investing in Success" Equities PLC, Munford, Inc., Munford, Inc	87-2376	09/25/87
(43) Konishiroku Photo Industry Co., Ltd., Powers Chemco, Inc., Powers Chemco, Inc	87-2389	09/25/87
(44) 716107 Ontario Limited, The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited, The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited	87-2397	09/25/87
(45) Landis & Gyr AG, Marks Controls Corporation, Mark Controls Corporation	87-2399	09/25/87
(46) Prudential-Bache Energy Income Ltd. Partnership VP-19, Mr. Edwin L. Cox, Sr., Mr. Edwin L. Cox, Sr	87-2403	09/25/87
(47) Trafalgar House Public Limited Company, NHP, Inc., Capital Homes, Inc	87-2439	09/25/87
(48) F.W. Woolworth Co., Armel, Inc., Armel, Inc	87-2448	09/25/87
(49) Meredith Corporation, Garrett Scollard, MMT Sales, Inc	87-2461	09/25/87
(50) F.W. Woolworth Co., Armel, Inc., Armel, Inc	87-2486	09/25/87
(51) SouthernNet, Inc., Southland Communications Corporation, Southland Communications Corporation	87-2306	09/28/87
(52) Mr. Alan Bond, Fluor Corporation, St. Joe Gold Corporation, et al	87-2299	09/29/87
(53) General Investments Australia Limited, Forstmann & Company, Inc., Forstmann & Company, Inc	87-2334	09/29/87
(54) Nitto Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Rohm & Haas Company, Hydranautics	87-2367	09/29/87
(55) Weyerhaeuser Company, Timberland Industries, Inc., Timberland Industries, Inc	87-2392	09/29/87
(56) Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott, First Media Corporation	87-2420	09/29/87
(57) The Trust created under Article Seven-John Hay Whitney, Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott, First Media Corporation	87-2426	09/29/87
(58) The Laird Group P.L.C., Bailey Corporation, Bailey Corporation	87-2429	09/29/87
(59) National Semiconductor Corporation, Schlumberger Limited, Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation	87-2309	09/30/87
(60) Panfida, Limited, Munford, Inc., Munford, Inc	87-2375	09/30/87
(61) Mr. James D. Harper, Jr. and Mr. William Lyon, Pacific Lighting Corporation, Pacific Lighting Real Estate Group	87-2406	09/30/87
(62) Paul J. Ramsay, Healthcare Services of America, Inc., Healthcare Services of America, Inc	87-2418	09/30/87
(63) Saatchi & Saatchi Company PLC, Peterson Investment Partners, Peterson Investment Partners	87-2427	09/30/87
(64) Frank J. Pasquerilla, Snyder's Inc., Snyder's Inc	87-2428	09/30/87
(65) Mobil Corporation, Aristech Chemical Corporation, Aristech Chemical Corporation	87-2338	10/01/87
(66) Stanadyne, Inc., AIL Corporation, AMBAC S.p.A. et al	87-2361	10/01/87
(67) Taft Broadcasting Company, John R.E. Lee, Silver Star Communications—Detroit, Inc. WRIF-FM	87-2479	10/01/87
(68) Peter C. Toigo, Campbell Soup Company, Pietro's Corp	87-2304	10/02/87
(69) Marmon Holdings, Inc., Richmond Tank Car Company, Richmond Tank Car Company	87-2313	10/02/87
(70) Ferruzzi Finanziaria SpA, Roy E. and Patricia A. Disney, SMRK Equity Holdings, Inc. or Central Soya Company, Inc	87-2351	10/02/87
(71) ARA Holding Company, Grand Metropolitan Public Limited Company, New Services, Inc	87-2381	10/02/87
(72) Ladbroke Group PLC, Allegis Corporation, Hilton International Co	87-2419	10/02/87
(73) S.A. Louis Dreyfus et Cie, Scheuer Management Corporation, Scheuer Management Corporation	87-2433	10/02/87
(74) Guinness PLC, Meshulam Riklis, Schenley Industries, Inc	87-2442	10/02/87
(75) Westinghouse Electric Corporation, S&ME, Inc., S&ME, Inc	87-2444	10/02/87
(76) Feltex International Limited, Super Sky International, Inc., Super Sky International, Inc	87-2460	10/02/87
(77) International Multifoods Corporation, Douglas S. Pueringer, Pueringer Distributing, Inc	87-2464	10/02/87
(78) Sea Containers Ltd., Orient-Express Hotels, Inc., Orient-Express Hotels Inc	87-2466	10/02/87
(79) Narragansett First Fund, J.L. Prescott Company, J.L. Prescott Company	87-2477	10/02/87
(80) The Dow Chemical Company, Lamaur Inc., Lamaur Inc	87-2487	10/02/87
(81) The Dow Chemical Company Lamaur Inc., Lamaur Inc	87-2488	10/02/87
(82) Pacific Dunlop Limited, GNB Holdings, Inc., GNB Incorporated	87-2378	10/05/87
(83) Barclays Bank (1964) Pension Trust Fund, Bernard A. Osher, Del Monte Shopping Center	87-2383	10/05/87
(84) Siebe plc, Barber-Colman Company, Barber-Colman Company	87-2400	10/05/87
(85) Wisconsin Energy Corporation, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., Upper Peninsula Power Company	87-2445	10/05/87
(86) Goldome, Security Pacific Corporation, Rainier Mortgage Company	87-2459	10/05/87

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra M. Peay, Contact Representative, Premerger Notification Office, Bureau of Competition, Room 301, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

Emily H. Rock,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 87-23725 Filed 10-13-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 87F-0277]

The Stroh Brewery Co.; Filing of Food Additive Petition

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that The Stroh Brewery Co. has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of aspartame as a sweetener in malt beverages of less than 7 percent ethanol by volume and containing fruit juice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl L. Giannetta, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFF-334), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-426-5487.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5), 72 Stat. 1786 (21 U.S.C. 348(b) (5))), notice is given that a petition (FAP 7A4029) has been filed by The Stroh Brewery Co., 100 River Place, Detroit, MI 48207-4291, proposing that § 172.804 *Aspartame* (21 CFR 172.804) be amended to provide for the safe use of aspartame as a sweetner in malt beverages of less than 7 percent ethanol by volume and containing fruit juice.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. If the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: October 5, 1987.

Richard J. Ronk,

Acting Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

[FR Doc. 87-23690 Filed 10-13-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-M

Health Care Financing Administration

[OACT-015-N]

Medicare Program: Medicare Economic Index for 1988

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the increase in the Medicare Economic Index for fee screen year (FSY) 1988, beginning on January 1, 1988, is 3.6 percent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on January 1, 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross H. Arnett III, (301) 594-6714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Payment under Medicare Part B for a physician's service is based on a reasonable charge which, under section 1842(b) of the Social Security Act (the Act), may not exceed the lowest of: (1) The physician's actual charge for the service, (2) his or her customary charge for that service, (3) the prevailing charges of physicians for similar services in the locality adjusted for the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), or (4) a special reasonable charge limit for a service or category of services that a carrier or the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) determines results in grossly excessive charges when the rules previously mentioned are applied. (In a case where the use of the customary and prevailing charges results in a payment that is grossly deficient, a higher reasonable charge may be recognized.)

The prevailing charge for a service, before adjustment by the MEI, is calculated at the 75th percentile of physicians' customary charges for a similar service in the same locality. (In computing prevailing charges, the carrier uses the customary charges of all physicians in the locality, weighted by frequency. However, for payment purposes, the prevailing charge for non-participating physicians is 96 percent of the computed MEI adjusted prevailing charge.) Section 1842(b)(3) of the Social Security Act, and our regulations at 42 CFR 405.504(a)(3)(i), require that the prevailing charge for a physician service furnished before January 1, 1988 not exceed the level in effect for that service in the locality determined for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1973, except to the extent justified on the basis of appropriate indicators of economic change as discussed below. The prevailing charge for a physician service furnished on or after January 1, 1988 must not exceed the level in effect for that service in the locality, determined for the previous year, except to the extent justified on the basis of appropriate indicators.

We have established an MEI for the purpose of adjusting prevailing charge levels in light of economic changes. The basis for this index is set forth in § 405.504(a)(3)(i). The basic methodology for the calculation of the MEI has not changed and can be reviewed in detail in our September 30, 1985 notice (50 FR 39941). Section 9331(c)(4) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-509, prohibits the Secretary from changing the methodology for the MEI until consultation with experts and completion of a study. To date, we have consulted with experts and are working on a study, but are not yet prepared to propose changes to the MEI methodology. We will afford public notice and an opportunity for comment prior to changing that methodology.

The MEI is comprised of two components: One measuring changes in general earnings levels (attributable to factors other than changes in productivity) and the other measuring changes in expenses of the kind incurred by physicians in office practice (42 CFR 405.504(a)(3)(i)(A) and (B)). The physician practice expense portion is currently composed of six components: (1) Salaries and wages; (2) office space; (3) drugs and supplies; (4) automobile expense; (5) malpractice insurance premiums; and (6) all other miscellaneous expenses. A detailed explanation of the calculation of weights for each type of practice expense can be found in the above-mentioned notice of September 30, 1985. The table found in this notice shows the factors and weights used in calculating the MEI for fee screen year (FSY) 1988; that is, the 12 month period beginning January 1, 1988. Items 1 through 6 in the table are the elements used to compute the increase in the physician practice expense component of the economic index. Item 9, the net income component, is derived from information contained in items 7 and 8 and reflects increases in general earnings levels exclusive of productivity increases.

The MEI reflects a base year of calendar 1971. Prior to enactment of Pub. L. 99-509, the cumulative effects of subsequent changes in the MEI for past periods were implemented prospectively. That is, any changes in the measure (based on more accurate data, for example) required recomputing the MEI back to its 1971 base period. This was done to ensure the computation of the most accurate percentage change in the MEI for prospective application in a given fee screen year (FSY). However, section 9331(c)(1) of Pub. L. 99-509 provides that for FSY 1987 the Medicare economic index (as defined in section 1842(b)(4)(E)(ii) of the Act) is 3.2 percent for physicians' services. The fourth sentence of section 1842(b)(3) of the Act, as amended by section 9331(c)(3) of Pub. L. 99-509, additionally provides that for subsequent fee screen years the MEI will be revised only to reflect year-to-year economic changes.

In accordance with this requirement, we have determined that the "annualized" MEI increase for FSY 1988 beginning on January 1, 1988 is 3.6 percent.

A major portion of the 1988 MEI increase is due to the large rate of increase in malpractice insurance premiums. The satute requires us to use the MEI methodology published on October 1, 1985 to determine the malpractice portion, as well as all other portions, of the 1988 MEI. Our previously mentioned study of the MEI will include an analysis that reflects recent economic changes regarding premiums for malpractice insurance.

The Congress is considering various proposals that may affect the MEI, as it did last year. If proposals are implemented that affect the MEI, we will advise the Medicare contractors through an appropriate manual issuance and the general public by means of a notice published in the **Federal Register.**