

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NEWS DIGEST

A brief summary of financial proposals filed with and actions by the S.E.C.

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FOR RELEASE December 30, 1963

Statistical Release No. 1948. The SEC Index of Stock Prices, based on the closing prices of 300 common stocks for the week ended December 27, 1963, for the composite and by major industry groups compared with the preceding week and with the highs and lows for 1963 is as follows:

	1957-59 = 100		Percent Change	1963	
	12/27/63	12/20/63		High	Low
Composite	151.5*	151.2	0.2	151.5	130.6
Manufacturing	142.2*	141.8	0.3	142.2	121.1
Durable Goods	138.4	137.2	0.9	141.4	116.2
Non-Durable Goods	145.9	146.2	-0.2	146.2	125.8
Transportation	135.6*	134.8	0.6	135.6	106.4
Utility	190.6	190.9	-0.2	191.9	170.3
Trade, Finance & Service	176.0	176.1	-0.1	180.9	153.8
Mining	134.5	134.2	0.2	136.4	104.2

\*New High

SECURITIES ACT REGISTRATION STATEMENTS. During the week ended December 26, 1963, 22 registration statements were filed, 15 became effective, 2 were withdrawn, and 259 were pending at the week-end.

FIRST FINANCE FILES FOR OFFERING. First Finance Corp., 813 Lakeview Ave., Lowell, Mass., filed a registration statement (File 2-21982) with the SEC on December 27th seeking registration of 100,000 shares of common stock and warrants for an additional 200,000 shares. The company proposes to offer 1 share (plus 2 warrants) for sale at \$10 per share, without underwriting. The offering will be made primarily to present stockholders, to the holders of outstanding short-term notes and outstanding subordinated debenture bonds, and to employees and certain other individuals. The warrants will be initially exercisable at \$12.50 per share (\$15 after September 30, 1966).

The company is engaged in making installment loans to individuals and in purchasing installment sales obligations originating with retail dealers in household furniture, appliances and other merchandise sold on a timepayment basis. This stock offering proposal is said to be the first step for strengthening its financial structure. The company is negotiating with a group of insurance companies for a twelve-year, unsecured loan of \$3,000,000 (its principal source of funds heretofore has been secured borrowing from a factor); and an increase in equity capital has been suggested by the prospective creditors. Of the net proceeds of the stock sale, some \$248,000 will be used initially to reduce notes due within one year. The amounts which may be used in connection with the company's business or possible future acquisitions are not now determinable. If the offering is successful, the company intends to complete the proposed insurance company loan and to apply the net proceeds thereof to the payment in full of its indebtedness to the factor which amounted to \$2,987,223 as of September 30, 1963. In addition to its indebtedness, the company now has outstanding 202,800 shares of common stock, of which Raymond Boisvert, a director, owns 11.25% and management officials as a group 61%. Raymond Mercier is listed as president.

IRVING AIR CHUTE PROPOSES OFFERING. Irving Air Chute Co. Inc., 1315 Versailles Rd., Lexington, Ky., filed a registration statement (File 2-21983) with the SEC on December 27th seeking registration of \$1,810,000 of 6% Convertible Subordinated Debentures. It is proposed to offer the debentures for subscription by common stockholders at the rate of \$100 principal amount of debentures for each 30 common shares held. The record date and underwriting terms are to be supplied by amendment. S. D. Fuller & Co., 26 Broadway, New York, is listed as the principal underwriter.

The company is a supplier of original equipment seat belts to the Chevrolet, Pontiac and Fisher Body Divisions of General Motors Corp. In November 1963 it began supplying seat belts for the Buick and Oldsmobile Divisions of G. M.; and the company also sells seat belts to certain foreign car manufacturers. In addition, the company is a producer of parachutes and allied equipment. Net proceeds of the sale of debentures will be applied, as follows: \$900,000 for the reduction of past due trade accounts payable; \$300,000 for repayment of bank loans; \$75,000 for acquisition of additional machinery and equipment for manufacture of seat belts and metal fabricating; \$175,000 for research and development of aerospace recovery program; and the balance for general working capital, including acquisition of inventory for seat belt business. In addition to various indebtedness, the company has outstanding 542,704 shares of common stock, of which management officials own some 36%. Leslie L. Irvin is listed as board chairman and Charles H. Pulley president.

COLUMBIA GAS RECEIVES ORDER. The SEC has issued an order under the Holding Company Act (Rel. 35-14990) authorizing The Columbia Gas System, Inc., New York holding company to continue its previously-approved program of making open account advances to subsidiaries for their construction, gas storage and other needs. The

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program is designed to utilize effectively aggregate system funds and to achieve the following: (1) prepayment of inventory loans with commercial banks at an earlier date than heretofore, (2) deferment of outside financing until aggregate system funds approach a minimum balance, and (3) facilitation of the internal financing of emergency requirements. In addition, operating subsidiaries having excess funds will be able, through the prepayment of installment promissory notes, to decrease their own net corporate interest expense during the period such funds are not required.

**AMERICAN INVESTMENT FUND RECEIVES ORDER.** The SEC has issued an order under the Investment Company Act (Release IC-3877) declaring that American Investment Fund, Inc., of 1032 Life Building, Dallas, has ceased to be an investment company.

**WARWICK FUND ORDER.** The SEC has issued an order under the Investment Company Act (Release IC-3878) declaring that Warwick Fund, of Claymont, Del., has ceased to be an investment company.

**UNLISTED TRADING GRANTED.** The SEC has issued orders under the Securities Exchange Act (Release 34-7202) granting (1) an application of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange for unlisted trading privileges in the common stocks of Coca Cola, Kerr McGee Oil and American Hospital Supply and (2) a similar application of the Philadelphia-Baltimore-Washington Stock Exchange for such privileges in the common stocks of United Financial Corp. of Calif., and Weyerhaeuser Co.

**SEC COMPLAINT NAMES RILEY, MOOREHEAD, OTHERS.** The SEC Atlanta Regional Office announced December 24th (LR-2808) the filing of a complaint (USDC, Miami, Fla.) seeking to enjoin further sales of The Genesis Corp. stock by James W. Riley, of Leola, Pa., and Jack F. Moorehead, Joel Rubin and Joseph Chakoff, all of Miami, in violation of the Securities Act registration requirements.

**ASTRODATA FILES FOR SECONDARY.** Astrodata, Inc., 240 East Palais Road, Anaheim, Calif., today filed a registration statement (File 2-21984) with the SEC seeking registration of 51,571 shares of capital stock, to be offered for public sale through underwriters headed by F. S. Smithers & Co., of 45 Wall St., New York City. The underwriters will purchase 16,793 shares of outstanding stock from the present holders thereof; and they also will buy and exercise options for the purchase from a stockholder an additional 34,778 shares. The public offering price (\$22 per share maximum\*) and underwriting terms are to be supplied by amendment.

The company is engaged primarily in the development, manufacture and sale of high speed electronic data handling equipment, range timing equipment and standard electronic products. It now has outstanding 673,104 shares of capital stock, of which management officials own 8.3%. The prospectus lists seven sellers of the 16,793 shares (they own an aggregate of 30,793 shares), including a firm affiliated with the principal underwriter. The options for the 34,778 shares were issued in November 1961 by a predecessor (Epsco, Inc.) and cover stock now owned by it. All such options are being sold by the present holders thereof to the underwriters, who will exercise the options for the 34,778 and offer same for public sale. The options are held by 21 holders, including options for 10,434 shares held by Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as trustee and agent, and options for 4,000 shares held by the underwriters's affiliate.

**SECURITIES ACT REGISTRATIONS.** Effective December 30: Applied Technology, Inc. (File 2-21829); The Franklin Life Insurance Co. (File 2-21940); Guy de la Passardiere (The Jordan Co.) (File 2-20876); Varian Associates (File 2-21914).

\*As estimated for purposes of computing the registration fee.

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