

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NEWS DIGEST



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

Washington 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE September 12, 1957

SEC EXEMPTS NATIONAL AVIATION PURCHASE OF SPERRY RAND STOCK

The SEC today announced the issuance of an exemption order permitting National Aviation Corporation, New York investment company, to purchase not more than \$750,000 principal amount of debentures of Sperry Rand Corporation.

Sperry Rand proposes to make a public offering of \$110,000,000 of Sinking Fund Debentures due September 1, 1982, through an underwriting group which is expected to include Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis and Hornblower & Weeks. Stuart R. Reed, a director of National Aviation, is a special partner of the Paine-Webber firm; and Charles S. Sargent, another director, is a partner of Hornblower & Weeks. Because of this intercompany affiliation, the purchase of Sperry Rand debentures by National is prohibited by the Investment Company Act unless an exemption order is issued by the Commission. (See Investment Company Act Release No. 2595.)

PITNEY-BOWES FILES EMPLOYEES' STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

Pitney-Bowes, Inc., Stamford, Conn., filed a registration statement (File 2-13591) with the SEC on September 11, 1957, seeking registration of \$505,000 of Participations in The Pitney-Bowes Employees' Stock Purchase Plan, together with the shares of its common stock which may be acquired pursuant thereto.

NORTHERN NATURAL GAS TO ISSUE NEW PREFERRED

Northern Natural Gas Company, Omaha, Neb., filed a registration statement (File 2-13592) with the SEC on September 11, 1957, seeking registration of 160,000 shares of Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$100 par, to be offered for public sale through an underwriting group headed by Blyth & Co., Inc. The interest rate, public offering price, and underwriting terms are to be supplied by amendment.

The net proceeds from the sale of the preferred stock will be used for a portion of the cost of the construction program for 1957 and for purchase of securities to be issued by subsidiary companies for their costs of construction and acquisition of property. The company has filed applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity with the Federal Power Commission for construction of facilities which, together with other proposed construction not requiring such certificates, is estimated to cost, in addition to the \$12,900,000 expended therefor in 1956, an aggregate of \$96,000,000, of which it is estimated that \$64,000,000 will be expended in 1957. It is anticipated that construction requirements during 1957 will require the company to undertake additional financing through the sale of approximately \$25,000,000 of debentures later in the year. Interim financing with bank loans will be used during the construction period.

(OVER)

For further details, call ST. 3-7600, ext. 5526

J. L. HAMMETT COMPANY PROPOSES OFFERING OF PREFERRED STOCK

J. L. Hammett Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts, today filed a registration statement (File 2-13593) with the SEC seeking registration of 9,365 shares of its 5% Preferred Stock. The company proposes to make direct sales of the stock through solicitation by its directors, officers, and employees, and is offering such stock for sale at \$100 per share. No underwriting discounts or commissions will be paid in connection with the sale of the stock.

The company, which is engaged in the school supply business, had outstanding as of June 30, 1957, 12,000 shares of Common Stock, \$100 par value; 1,000 shares of Preferred Stock, 5% Cumulative, \$100 par value (referred to as "Existing Preferred Stock"), authorized in 1941; and 635 shares of 5% Preferred Stock, \$100 par value, authorized in March, 1957. The 9,365 shares of 5% Preferred Stock being registered at this time represent the remaining shares of the 10,000 shares of 5% Preferred Stock authorized in 1957 and are subject to the preferential rights of the "Existing Preferred Stock."

Proceeds from the stock sale will be added to the company's working capital. The prospectus states that at present the company supplements its working capital by seasonal short-term borrowings. On June 30, 1957, there were outstanding short-term notes of the company aggregating \$1,950,000. Part of the net proceeds from the stock sale may be applied to reduce the outstanding amount of such notes.

---000000---