

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NEWS DIGEST



Washington 25, D.C.

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

FOR RELEASE December 2, 1957

Statistical Release No. 1496

The SEC Index of Stock Prices, based on the closing prices of 265 common stocks for the week ended November 29, 1957, for the composite and by major industry groups compared with the preceding week and with the highs and lows for 1957, is as follows:

	<u>(1939 = 100)</u>		<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>1957</u>	
	<u>11/29/57</u>	<u>11/22/57</u>		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Composite	309.1	302.7	+ 2.1	365.0	297.9
Manufacturing	392.0	382.7	+ 2.4	472.5	376.7
Durable Goods	355.1	350.2	+ 1.4	438.7	345.5
Non-Durable Goods	425.9	412.5	+ 3.2	503.5	404.1
Transportation	227.4	224.3	+ 1.4	317.5	224.3
Utility	152.1	150.7	+ 0.9	163.5	146.1
Trade, Finance & Service	265.5	263.3	+ 0.8	292.1	259.5
Mining	299.1	285.1	+ 4.9	402.3	276.6

PUBLIC SAVINGS LIFE INSURANCE PROPOSES STOCK OFFERING

Public Savings Life Insurance Company, Charleston, S. Car., filed a registration statement (File 2-13774) with the SEC on November 29, 1957, seeking registration of 113,000 outstanding shares of its 50¢ par Common Stock. The holder thereof, Public Savings Insurance Company, a Texas corporation, proposes to offer the shares for public sale. The offering is to be made on a "best efforts" basis by an underwriter, whose name, along with the public offering price and underwriting terms, is to be supplied by amendment. The selling stockholder owns 344,169 shares, or 99.29%, of the outstanding common stock of the company. Robert W. Pullen, who is president and a director of both companies, owns 52.7% of the outstanding voting securities of the selling stockholder.

LOUISIANA POWER STOCK SALE TO PARENT CLEARED

The SEC has issued an order (Holding Company Act Release No. 13612) authorizing Louisiana Power & Light Company, New Orleans, subsidiary of Middle South Utilities, Inc., to issue and sell an additional 1,800,000 common shares to Middle South for \$6,500,000 cash. Proceeds are to be used by the subsidiary to pay part of the cost of construction of new facilities and for the extension and improvement of present facilities. Louisiana Power also was authorized to transfer \$2,500,000 from its earned surplus to its common capital stock account.

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

(OVER)

BROCKTON EDISON PREFERRED OFFERING EXEMPTED FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The SEC has issued an order (Holding Company Act Release No. 13613) granting an application of Brockton Edison Company, Brockton, Mass., for an exemption from competitive bidding with respect to its proposed public offering of 30,000 shares of an initial series of \$100 par cumulative preferred stock. As a result of negotiations with Kuhn, Loeb & Co., the preferred stock, with a dividend rate of 6.40%, is to be offered for public sale at \$102.40 per share, with a \$2.25 per share commission to the underwriters. When the preferred stock was first offered for public sale at competitive bidding, two groups of underwriters qualified but no bids were received, whereupon the company received permission of the Commission to undertake negotiations with Kuhn, Loeb.

SUBURBAN ELECTRIC BOND ISSUE CLEARED

The SEC has issued an order (Holding Company Act Release No. 13614) authorizing Suburban Electric Company, of Malden, Mass., to issue and sell, at competitive bidding, \$4,500,000 of First Mortgage Bonds, Series B, due December 1, 1987. Net proceeds will be applied to the payment of short-term note indebtedness incurred for capitalizable expenditures, and the balance used to reimburse the treasury for the cost of, or for the payment of indebtedness incurred, for such expenditures.

GAS INDUSTRIES FUND, INC. AND THE COLONIAL FUND INC. FILE APPLICATIONS TO PURCHASE DEBENTURES OF COMMONWEALTH OIL REFINERY CO., INC.

Gas Industries Fund, Inc., and The Colonial Fund, Inc., both registered investment companies of Boston, Mass., have filed separate applications with the SEC for exemption orders permitting the purchase of debentures of Commonwealth Oil Refining Company, Inc., a Puerto Rican oil refinery; and the Commission has issued an order (Investment Company Act Release No. 2635) giving interested persons until December 9, 1957, to request a hearing thereon.

Commonwealth Oil previously filed a registration statement with the Commission proposing the public offering of \$20,000 of Convertible Junior Subordinated Debentures. The First Boston Corporation is expected to form and manage an underwriting group to offer the securities. One of its directors is also a director of each of the applicant companies, which affiliation makes it unlawful under the Investment Company Act for the two companies to purchase Commonwealth Oil debentures unless an exemption order is issued by the Commission. In its application, Gas Industries proposes the purchase of \$340,000 of the debentures and Colonial Fund, \$170,000.

MONARCH LAUNDRY MACHINERY CORPORATION STOCK OFFERING SUSPENDED

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued an order temporarily suspending a Regulation A exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to a public offering of securities by Monarch Laundry Machinery Corporation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The order provides an opportunity for hearing, upon request, on the question whether the suspension should be vacated or made permanent.

Regulation A provides a conditional exemption from registration with respect to public offerings of securities not exceeding \$300,000 in amount. In its Regulation A notification, filed September 17, 1956, Monarch proposed the public offering of 241,420 shares of Class II non-voting common stock at \$1 per share and 1,000 shares of 6% cumulative preferred stock at \$11 per share, or an aggregate of \$252,420.

The Commission asserts in its suspension order that it has reason to believe that Monarch's offering circular is misleading, in that (1) the balance sheet as of September 30, 1956, made a part of the offering circular, as amended, shows an "Earned Surplus" of \$20,691.40, whereas it appears that Monarch actually had an operating deficit as of that date; and (2) the Statement of Profit and Loss for the period December 1, 1955, to September 30, 1956, made a part of the offering circular, as amended, shows a "Net Profit after Federal Income Tax" of \$18,950.38, whereas it appears that the issuer actually had an operating loss during this period. (See Securities Act Release No. 3869.)