

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Michael F. Weber,
*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch, Division of Waste
Management, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards.*
[FR Doc. 96-6383 Filed 3-15-96; 8:45 am]
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. 301-102]

Initiation of Section 302 Investigation and Request for Public Comment: Canadian Practices Affecting Periodicals

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of
investigation; request for written
comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade
Representative (USTR) has initiated an
investigation under section 302(b)(1) of
the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the
Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)(1)), with
respect to certain acts, policies and
practices of the Government of Canada
that restrict or prohibit imports of
certain periodicals into Canada and
apply discriminatory treatment to
certain imported periodicals. USTR
invites written comments from the
public on the matters being investigated.
DATES: This investigation was initiated
on March 11, 1996. Written comments
from the public are due on or before
noon on April 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Office of the United States
Trade Representative, 600 17th Street
NW., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Claude Burcky, Director for Canadian
Affairs, (202) 395-3412, or James
Southwick, Assistant General Counsel,
(202) 395-7203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section
302(b)(1) of the Trade Act authorizes
the USTR to initiate an investigation
under chapter 1 of Title III of the Trade
Act (commonly referred to as "section
301"), with respect to any matter in
order to determine whether the matter is
actionable under section 301. Matters
actionable under section 301 include,
inter alia, the denial of rights of the
United States under a trade agreement,
or acts, policies, and practices of a
foreign country that violate or are
inconsistent with the provisions of, or
otherwise deny benefits to the United
States under, any trade agreement.

On March 11, 1996, having consulted
with the appropriate private sector

advisory committees, the USTR
determined that an investigation should
be initiated to determine whether
certain laws and regulations of Canada
affecting periodicals are actionable
under section 301(a). The measures in
question prohibit or restrict the
importation into Canada of so-called
"split-run" periodicals, provide for
discriminatory tax treatment of split-run
periodicals and apply favorable postage
rates to Canadian periodicals.

Investigation and Consultations

As required in section 303(a) of the
Trade Act, the USTR has requested
consultations with the Government of
Canada regarding the issues under
investigation. The request is pursuant to
Article XXIII of the General Agreement
on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994)
and Article 4 of the Understanding on
Rules and Procedures Governing the
Settlement of Disputes (DSU) (which
applies to dispute settlement under
GATT 1994 and other agreements under
the World Trade Organization (WTO)).
If the consultations do not result in a
satisfactory resolution of the matter, the
USTR will request the establishment of
a panel pursuant to Article 6 of the
DSU.

Under section 304 of the Trade Act,
the USTR must determine within 18
months after the date on which this
investigation was initiated, or within 30
days after the conclusion of WTO
dispute settlement procedures,
whichever is earlier, whether any act,
policy, or practice or denial of trade
agreement rights described in section
301 of the Trade Act exists and, if that
determination is affirmative, the USTR
must determine what action, if any, to
take under section 301 of the Trade Act.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to
submit written comments concerning
the acts, policies and practices of
Canada which are the subject of this
investigation, the amount of burden or
restriction on U.S. commerce caused by
these acts, policies and practices, and
the determinations required under
section 304 of the Trade Act. Comments
must be filed in accordance with the
requirements set forth in 15 CFR
2006.8(b) (55 FR 20593) and must be
filed on or before noon on April 12,
1996. Comments must be in English and
provided in twenty copies to: Sybia
Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section
301 Committee, Room 223, Office of the
U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th
Street NW., Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file
(Docket 301-102) open to public

inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13,
except confidential business
information exempt from public
inspection in accordance with 15 CFR
2006.15. Confidential business
information submitted in accordance
with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly
marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL"
in contrasting color ink at the top of
each page on each of 20 copies, and
must be accompanied by a
nonconfidential summary of the
confidential information. The
nonconfidential summary shall be
placed in the file that is open to public
inspection. An appointment to review
the docket (Docket No. 301-102) may be
made by calling Brenda Webb (202)
395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is
open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12
noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday, and is located
in Room 101.

Irving A. Williamson,
Chairman, Section 301 Committee.
[FR Doc. 96-6367 Filed 3-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee Open Committee Meeting

According to the provisions of section
10 of the Federal Advisory Committee
Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby
given that meetings of the Federal
Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee
will be held on—

Thursday, April 11, 1996
Thursday, May 2, 1996
Thursday, May 16, 1996

The meetings will start at 10:45 a.m.
and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office
of Personnel Management Building,
1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory
Committee is composed of a Chairman,
five representatives from labor unions
holding exclusive bargaining rights for
Federal blue-collar employees, and five
representatives from Federal agencies.
Entitlement to membership on the
Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C.
5347.

The Committee's primary
responsibility is to review the Prevailing
Rate System and other matters pertinent
to establishing prevailing rates under
subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as
amended, and from time to time advise
the Office of Personnel Management.

These scheduled meetings will start
in open session with both labor and
management representatives attending.
During the meeting either the labor

members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chairman to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of the meeting.

Annually, the Chairman compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chairman on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on these meetings may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5559, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415 (202) 606-1500.

Dated: March 11, 1996.

Anthony F. Ingrassia,
Chairman, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 96-6267 Filed 3-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Actuarial Advisory Committee With Respect to the Railroad Retirement Account; Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Public Law 92-463 that the Actuarial Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on April 2, 1996, at 10 a.m. at the office of the Chief Actuary of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL, on the conduct of the 20th Actuarial Valuation of the Railroad Retirement System. The agenda for this meeting will include a discussion of the assumptions to be used in the 20th Actuarial Valuation. A report containing recommended assumptions and the experience on which the recommendations are based

will have been sent by the Chief Actuary to the Committee before the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public. Persons wishing to submit written statements or make oral presentations should address their communications or notices to the RRB Actuarial Advisory Committee, c/o Chief Actuary, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2092.

Dated: March 12, 1996.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 96-6392 Filed 3-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-21819; File No. 812-9370]

Southwestern Life Insurance Company, et al.

March 11, 1996.

AGENCY: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

APPLICANTS: Southwestern Life Insurance Company ("Southwestern Life"), Variable Annuity Fund I of Southwestern Life (the "Separate Account"), and Philadelphia Life Asset Planning Company ("PLAPCO").

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS: Order requested under Section 6(c) for exemptions from Sections 26(a)(2)(C) and 27(c)(2) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: An order is sought exempting Applicants to the extent necessary to permit the payment to Southwestern Life of a mortality and expense risk charge from the assets of the Separate Account under certain variable annuity contracts ("Contracts") issued through the Separate Account.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on December 19, 1994 and amended and restated on March 14, 1995, November 24, 1995, and February 28, 1996.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the SEC and serving Applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on April 5, 1996, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service.

Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested.

Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Secretary of the SEC.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549; Applicants, Daniel B. Gail, Esq., Southwestern Life Corporation, 500 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward P. Macdonald, Staff Attorney, or Wendy Friedlander, Deputy Chief (Office of Insurance Products), Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942-0670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is a summary of the application. The complete application is available for a fee from the Public Reference Branch of the SEC.

Applicants' Representations

1. Southwestern Life, a stock life insurance company incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, is wholly-owned by Southwestern Life Acquisition Corp., a Delaware corporation, which in turn is wholly-owned by Southwestern Financial Corporation, a Delaware corporation. Southwestern Life, the depositor of the Separate Account, is engaged in the sale of life insurance and annuity policies in 39 states, Washington, D.C. and Guam.

2. The Separate Account was established by Southwestern Life as a management investment company on December 19, 1967, under the laws of the State of Texas to serve as the funding medium for the Contracts. The Separate Account is in the process of converting from a management investment company to a unit investment trust. Contractowners approved the conversion at a meeting of Contractowners held on July 28, 1995. Upon conversion, Contractowners will receive in exchange for their shares of the Separate Account units of interest in the Separate Account representing beneficial interests in shares of Scudder Growth Portfolio, portfolio of Scudder Variable Life Investment Fund. If the conversion is not consummated, the Separate Account will remain a managed open-end separate investment account and there will be no exchange of shares for units of interest. However, Southwestern Life expects that the conversion will be consummated promptly upon the issuance of an order by the SEC granting the exemptive relief requested in the application.

3. PLAPCO, formerly but not currently an affiliate of Southwestern Life, is the principal underwriter for the