

Bull. 192 (1989)); (2) acting as agent in the private placement of all types of securities (see *Bankers Trust New York Corp.*, 75 Fed. Res. Bull. 829 (1989)); (3) buying and selling all types of securities on order of customers as "riskless principal" (see *The Bank of New York Company, Inc.*, 82 Fed. Res. Bull. 748 (1996)); (4) providing investment and financial advisory services, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(4) of the Board's Regulation Y; (5) providing full-service brokerage services, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(15) of the Board's Regulation Y; (6) making and servicing loans, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(1) of the Board's Regulation Y; (7) underwriting and dealing in government obligations and money market instruments in which state member banks may underwrite and deal under 12 U.S.C. §§ 335 and 24(7), pursuant to § 225.25(b)(16) of the Board's Regulation Y; (8) in addition to the securities credit activities under the Board's Regulation T, acting as "conduit" or "intermediary" in securities borrowing and lending (see *Republic New York Corp., et al.*, 80 Fed. Res. Bull. 249 (1994)); and (9) engaging in the following swaps-related activities: (a) acting as agent or broker with respect to interests in loan syndications, interest rate and currency swap transactions and related caps, floors, collars and options thereon ("swap derivative products"); (b) acting as a broker or agent with respect to swaps and swap derivative products, and over-the-counter options transactions, linked to products other than interest rates and currencies, such as certain commodities, stock, bond, or commodity indices, or a hybrid of interest rates and such commodities or indices, a specially tailored basket of securities selected by the parties, or single securities; (c) providing financial and transactions advice regarding the structuring and arranging of swaps and swap derivative products relating to non-financial commodity swap transactions; and (d) providing investment advice, including counsel, written analyses and reports, and other advisory services, including discretionary portfolio management services, with respect to futures and options on futures on non-financial commodities (see, e.g., *Caisse Nationale de Credit Agricole, S.A.*, 82 Fed. Res. Bull. 754 (1996); *First Union Corporation*, 81 Fed. Res. Bull. 726 (1995). Company would conduct these activities in accordance with Regulation Y and the Board's prior orders involving these activities. Company proposes to conduct these activities throughout the world.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (James A. Bluemle, Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1413:

1. *Stichting Prioriteit ABN AMRO Holding*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; *Stichting Administratiekantoor ABN AMRO Holding*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; *ABN AMRO Holding N.V.*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; *ABN AMRO Bank N.V.*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and *ABN AMRO North America, Inc.*, Chicago, Illinois; to acquire Standard Federal Bancorp, Inc., Troy, Michigan, and thereby indirectly acquire Standard Federal Bank, Troy, Michigan (a federally-chartered stock savings bank), and Standard Brokerage Services, Inc., Troy, Michigan, and thereby engage in the nonbanking activities of operating a savings association, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(9) of the Board's Regulation Y, and in providing securities brokerage services in combination with investment advisory services, pursuant to § 225.25(b)(15) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 11, 1997.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-3869 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 932-3023]

### The Money Tree, Inc.; Vance R. Martin; Analysis To Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

**SUMMARY:** In settlement of alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices and unfair methods of competition, this consent agreement, accepted subject to final commission approval, would require, among other things, the Georgia-based money lender and its president to send a notice to all of its current customers offering them the opportunity to cancel the credit-life, credit-disability, and accidental death and disbursement insurance coverages written on their loans, and to receive cash refunds or credits. The agreement also prohibits Money Tree and Martin from requiring consumers to sign statements that credit-related insurance or auto club memberships are voluntarily purchased if these extras are, in fact, required to obtain the loan. The complaint accompanying the consent agreement alleges that Money

Tree required consumers to purchase credit-related insurance and auto club memberships (thus substantially increasing the cost of their loans) but failed to disclose to consumers the true cost of their credit, in violation of the Truth in Lending Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 21, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Medicine, Federal Trade Commission, S-4429, 6th and Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-3025.

Rolando Berrele, Federal Trade Commission, S-4429, 6th and Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-3211.

Thomas Kane, Federal Trade Commission, S-4429, 6th and Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-2304.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission, Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46, and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the accompanying complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the Commission Actions section of the FTC Home Page (for February 4, 1997), on the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions/htm." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

#### Analysis of Proposed Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted an agreement, subject to final

approval, to a proposed consent order from The Money Tree, Inc. ("Money Tree"), and Vance R. Martin, individually and as an officer of Money Tree (collectively referred to as "respondents").

The proposed order would settle charges that Money Tree, which also does business as Money To Lend, Inc. and Money To Lend, violated the Truth in Lending Act ("TILA") and its implementing Regulation Z. The proposed order would also resolve allegations that Money Tree and Vance R. Martin violated the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act") and the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). The TILA and Regulation Z require creditors to provide consumers with written disclosures of the costs and credit terms associated with loans. Section 5 of the FTC Act prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. The FCRA requires creditors to provide applicants who are denied credit due to information contained in a credit report with a notice containing the name and address of the credit reporting agency that supplied the report.

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for reception of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

The complaint alleges that Money Tree required consumers to purchase credit-life insurance, credit-disability insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and/or an auto club membership (collectively referred to as "extras") in connection with its loans, but (1) failed to include the costs of these extras in the finance charge and annual percentage rate ("APR") disclosed to consumers, and (2) wrongfully included the premiums and fees in the amount financed, causing customers to pay interest on the premiums and fees for these extras. These practices, according to the complaint, violate sections 106, 107, and 128 of the Truth in Lending Act ("TILA"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 1605, 1606, and 1638, as amended, respectively, and sections 226.4, 226.4(d), 226.22, and 226.18 (b), (d), and (e) of Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. §§ 226.4, 226.4(d), 226.22, and 226.18(b), (d) and (e), respectively.

The complaint further alleges that respondents violated section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), by inducing consumers to execute documents stating

that they voluntarily chose the extras when, in fact, the extras were mandatory to obtain a loan. Finally, the complaint alleges that respondents violated section 615(a) of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681m(a), by denying credit to consumers either wholly or partly because of information in a report from a consumer reporting agency but failing to: (a) advise the applicant, at the time the applicant was informed of such adverse action, that the adverse action was based in whole or in part on information contained in a consumer report; and (b) supply the applicant with the name and address of the consumer reporting agency making the report.

The proposed order contains injunctive provisions designed to remedy the violations charged and to prevent respondents from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future. Specifically, the order would require that Money Tree: (1) make all disclosures in accordance with the TILA; (2) include in the finance charge and the APR disclosed to consumers the costs of extras that consumers are required to purchase in connection with their loans; and (3) exclude from the amount financed disclosed to consumers the costs of extras that consumers are required to purchase in connection with their loans.

The proposed order would also prohibit respondents from referring to the availability of any extra without at the same time disclosing orally: (1) that the consumer has already been approved for the loan, (2) the amount of the loan, (3) that the extras are optional, (4) that the consumer's decision about the extras does not affect the amount of their loan or whether the consumer will receive a loan, (5) the amount of the premium or fee for each extra, and (6) that Money Tree will add premiums and fees for the extras to the consumer's loan amount. The proposed order would further require respondents to provide future customers with a separate document that states, *inter alia*, that the consumer has already been approved for the loan and that the consumer should not sign the form unless they want to buy one of the extras. The proposed order would also require that respondents: (a) advise rejected applicants that they have been denied credit in whole or in part because of information in a consumer report; and (b) give rejected applicants the name and address of the consumer reporting agency making the report.

The proposed order would provide Money Tree customers with an opportunity to receive refunds. Under the proposed order, Money Tree must

offer its customers an opportunity to cancel the credit-life insurance, credit-disability insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance written on their loans and obtain cash refunds or credits to their accounts.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order, and it is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way its terms.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3911 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

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## GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

### Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

#### Notice of Meeting

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, February 27, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in room 7C13 of the General Accounting Office building, 441 G St., NW., Washington, DC.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss (1) the appropriate classification of certain Coast Guard cutters and aircraft, (2) options for social insurance programs, (3) the cost-of-capital work plan, and (4) an interpretation issue from the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Accounting Branch related to proper classification of recoveries of clean-up costs.

Any interested person may attend the meeting as an observer. Board discussions and reviews are open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wendy Comes, Executive Director, 750 First St., NE., Room 1001, Washington, DC 20002, or call (202) 512-7350.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, Section 10(a)(2), 86 Stat. 770, 774 (1972) (current version at 5 U.S.C. app. section 10(a)(2) (1988)); 41 CFR 101-6.1015 (1990).

Dated: February 11, 1997.

Wendy M. Comes,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-3860 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1610-01-M