

THE FOOD DEALER

"The Magazine for the Michigan Food Market"

MAY, 1971



Food Brokers Sports Night

The Detroit Food Brokers Association held its Annual Sports Night recently at the Raleigh House. Pictured above, from left, are DFBA secretary John Kimball; Detroit Lions quarterback Greg Landry, the featured speaker; president Robert Reeves; and James Hutton, secretary-treasurer.

Uniform Food Inspection — Page 8

In the Detroit-Southeastern Michigan area

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Food, Beverage Industries Blast Bottle Ban

The State of Michigan and the City of Detroit both heard the wrath and swelling voices of unified business, industry and labor against any law banning one-way containers, or imposing a strict bottle deposit, in two

recent separate hearings.

The hearings were jammed with people vehemently opposed to any bans against cans or bottles, and who applauded enthusiastically when anyone testified against the ban. Among the reasons cited for the opposition were: discrimination, loss of jobs, loss of industry from Michigan, and that litter is a people problem. The basic answer or solution to the problem, most agreed, is reuse and recycling of solid waste and development of solid waste disposal systems.

Cost was listed as a major reason also for not banning one-way containers. (An Associated Food Dealers position paper recently cited its own survey which stated it would cost Michigan food and beverage retailers an average of \$25 million annually to handle solely returnable bottles if a ban were imposed on one-ways.)

Heads of many beer and soft drink companies, and spokesmen for several food and beverage trade associations were on hand to express their views against any ban or mandatory deposit. Among the beverage companies included representation from Stroh Brewery Co., National Brewing Co., Association Brewing Co., Carling, Anheuser-Busch, and a host of beer distributors representing the other firms, as Blatz, Pabst, Miller, Schlitz, etc.

Soft drink companies represented included Pepsi-Cola, Vernor's, Faygo, Coca-Cola, Squirt-Detroit, Seven-Up, Mavis, Canada Dry, and others.

Among the unions represented included the International Brewery Workers, AFL-CIO, United Steel Workers, Glass Workers, etc. The United Automobile Workers however, had a spokesman representing its consumer division testify in favor of a ban.

Various trade associations on hand, in addition to AFD, included the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Brewers Association, Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Assn., U.S. Brewers Association, Glass Container Manufacturers Institute, and many others.

In a recent talk before the Detroit Association of Grocery Manufacturers Representatives (DAGMR) recently, AFD executive director Ed Deeb urged all food groups to speak out against the ban and other harmful legislation against our industry. He said all GMR groups and food broker associations' member-principals would be affected. Since then, DAGMR, Detroit Food Brokers Association, and the newly formed Michigan Council for Convenience Packaging, and the Michigan Food Trades Council, have issued positions against the proposed ban.

Certificate of Appreciation

This is to certify that

The Associated Food Dealers

has earned the appreciation

of the people of Detroit for an outstanding contribution to the Food Industries in the Metropolitan Area.

This Award is made in the Public Interest.

CITATION - The above citation was presented to the Associated Food Dealers by Detroit Mayor Roman S. Gribbs for distinguished service to the people and the food industry in honor of our 55th anniversary the AFD is currently celebrating.

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MRS. CHERYL McWILLIAMS, Office Secretary
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THOMAS VIOLANTE-Holiday Super Market	Royal Oak
JERRY YONO-Imperial Quality Market	Detroit
TONY ZERILLI-Big-A Super Market	Birmingham

The Sounding Board

To the AFD:

The Arche Club of Wayne wishes to thank AFD executive director Ed Deeb for the very informative review of food industry programs recently at our meeting. I am sure as housewives we gained a better perspective of the industry, supermarkets and the many things to come as a result of new systems.

Mrs. Margaret O'Brien Corresponding Secretary Arche Club of Wayne

We wish to thank the Associated Food Dealers for participating in our "Fair Share-In" held recently at Marygrove College. You played an important part in this professional activity. I hope the attention of Detroit Home Economics Association for Educators will remain close to consumer concerns in the years ahead. We look forward to working with you again.

Mrs. Joanne D. McConkey President Detroit Home Economics Assn. For Educators



DRAMATIC — That's the view of this new potato unloading device currently being used by Better Made Potato Chips, an AFD member at its Detroit headquarters. It tilts a fully loaded trailer and tractor to an angle of as high as 55 degrees to unload a shipment of potatoes in the shortest possible time. General manager Jack McDonald says the \$35,000 unloader can empty 30,000 pounds of potatoes in 15 to 20 minutes.

Around the Town

Raymond M. Dutmers, executive vice-president of Spartan Stores, Inc., an AFD member, has been elected to a 3-year directorship of the Cooperative Food Distributors of America. Congratulations, Ray!

Robert A. Vibbert, formerly associated with the Peppler-Vibbert Brokerage, has joined the executive staff of Acme Detroit Food Brokerage.

Obituaries: The AFD was saddened recently to learn of the passing of three longtime members: grocers Chester Bendzinski, Frank Sandomierski; and Prescott Williams Sr. Mr. Bendzinski operated Chet's Market in East Detroit; Mr. Sandomierski operated Sandomierski's Market on Chene in Detroit before retiring; and Mr. Williams was connected with Store Equipment Sales, after having been with Vlasic Foods and The Borden Company for many years prior.

About 20 food industry friends of Carrol A. Wilson, a sales representative for United Brokerage Company, an AFD member, gathered at a surprise party recently at the Fox & Hounds Inn, Bloomfield Hills. In addition to his colleages at United, Al Tivy, Lou Piscopo, etc., also on hand were Sam Cosma, Frank Tenuta, Leo Sabatini, Ed Deeb, Glenn Haut and several others in addition to Carrol's family.

The Associated Food Dealers wishes to thank the Pepsi-Cola Company, American Bakeries' Taystee division and Peter Eckrich & Sons for providing the ingredients for a snack luncheon on Mother's Day during Police Week in Detroit. The DPD said it was tru y grateful.

The AFD also wishes to thank Anheuser-Busch, Krun-Chee division of Sunshine Biscuits, and Squirt-Detroit Bottling Co. for furnishing the refreshments at the recent AFD board meeting.

At the request of Gov. Milliken and his staff, Don LaRose, Mike Giancotti and Ed Deeb sojourned to



Lansing to protest the lack of uniform food inspection standards, and propose a program which the state says it is seriously going to consider. (See The President's Corner, this issue.)

Speaking of Lansing, the Associated Food Dealers board of directors recently hosted its Annual Get-Acquainted Dinner with some 30-35 legislators on hand for the big evening. The event was held at the plush new headquarters of the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association, AFD friend and fellow trade association. (More on this in the next issue.)

Kemba Detroit Credit Union, chartered in the Motor City in 1933, and now includes nearly 3,000 employees of The Kroger Company, has qualified for federal insurance of members' share accounts, it has been announced. Officers of the CU with assets of over \$2½ million, are Ed Kuhlman, Marie Willis, Geraldine Rae, and Cy Roxburgh.

David H. McDonald and Stanley O. Wittenmyer have been appointed route supervisors in the Detroit area for Peter Eckrich & Sons, an AFD member, it was announced recently by Elwin Eggleston, manager of the firm's Detroit office.

The AFD was happy to learn recently that U.S. Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans decided to create an Ombudsman For Business. Our association has been pressing for such an office for quite some time, and was the subject of Ed Deeb's column in The Food Dealer earlier this year.

The DeCrick Company, Inc., an AFD member, is the new name of the old DeCrick & Maurer food brokerage, according to president William DeCrick.

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ED DEEB

OFF THE DEEB END

Super Stars

The successful merchant or businessman today is one who offers more than just quality products, service and competitive prices.

He is one who is in tune with the times, and sensitive to the needs and changing habits of the complex consumer in a fast-changing society.

He is one who is able to make a lasting and rewarding impression on customers because of warm atmosphere, a wide variety of products, and courteous and friendly personnel.

He is one who respects human dignity and receives human dignity, respect and repeat business in return.

He is one who is able to educate and inform his customers as to which products to purchase and the best way they should be used or prepared.

He is one who knows his own business — cost of merchandise, amount of inventory, retail prices — as well as those of his competitors.

He is one who inspires in employees the I-want-to-do-a-better-job attitude, and inspires customers to want-to-come-back-for-more.

He is sensitive to the needs of an individualized area, and caters to an ethnic group's tastes and preferences.

He is really an accountant, a personnel manager, a salesman, a psychologist, a serviceman, a merchandiser, an adman, an artist, a cashier, a banker, an individualist, a musician and many other people all in one.

A musician? Yes, since he beats the tune of modern times, and if successful, like The Pied Piper, has a very big following.

He really is a Super Star; he has to be in order to survive in today's highly competitive marketplace, with all the demands being placed on him.

Mr. Businessman, Super Star of industry and commerce.

BEING SERANADED in a supermarket was a real surprise for shoppers at a Wrigley store, right, recently. Wrigley, in connection with its theme, "Have a Happy Day," hired a band called Custer's Last Band to perform at each of its stores in the state.

Spartan Stores Elects Willmes, Winter VPs

Spartan Stores, Inc., an AFD member, recently announced the election of Francis Willmes and Vernon J. Winter as vice-president of the firm at a recent directors meeting. Willmes, in charge of Spartan general merchandise since 1965, was elected vice-president of general merchandise, while Winter, was elected vice-president in charge of operations. The announcement was made by Joseph G. Foy, president of the firm.

At the same time, Foy announced the promotion of John Van Dyke to general warehouse superintendent. In his new post, Van Dyke will assume responsibility for perishables and general merchandise, in addition to groceries.

Allied Supermarkets Ups Martin and Murphy

The promotion of Charles E. Marin to the position of senior vicepresident of personnel and industrial relations, and Patrick J. Murphy to vice-president and corporate controller, has been announced by chairman Thomas McMaster, of Allied.

At the same time, McMaster announced the consolidation of the real estate department into the construction and engineering and real estate department. Don N. Maw, vice-president of the former engineering and construction department will head the new consolidated department.

Promotion at Chatham

Clarence E. Fisch, formerly head of real estate development at Chatham Super Markets, an AFD member, had been appointed senior vicepresident of distribution and manufacturing for the 30-store food chain, it was announced by president Bernard Weisberg.



Selling Your Store? See Sarafa Realty Contact Salim Sarafa at 557-5491



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- SMOKED HAM and BACON
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Detroit

WO 1-6561

(In the Eastern Market)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

AFD, Gov. Milliken Set Priorities on Food Inspection

By WILLIAM BENNETT

One of the top priority items of the Associated Food Dealers this year is to help bring about uniform food inspection, and equipment standards for Michigan's food distribution industry.

Those of you who have food inspectors call on you know how frustrating this can be, especially since there are four levels who can do the inspecting; city or township, county, state or Federal.

Governor William Milliken has pledged to work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Associated Food Dealers to review the several stand-



BENNETT

ards and duplication of inspections and laws covering our industry.

In connection with this, AFD's Don LaRose, Mike Giancotti and Ed Deeb met recently with the governor's aides to relate the scope of the problem, and suggested ways the problem can be solved. In turn, the Governor and his aides have assured the AFD that the state will seriously look into the situation in behalf of the industry and the citizens.

Why he need for uniform food inspection in Michigan? There are several reasons, of which I will list a few, as follows:

Rules Widely Differ: As I mentioned there are four jurisdictions to begin with, i.e. city, county, state and federal levels of inspection. They differ on such things as the use of sawdust; whether you cut grass around the stores; whether to use single, double or triple-basin sinks; different rules for openair fruit stands versus those for regularly enclosed food stores, gas stations, drug stores and restaurants, etc.

Standards For Equipment Differ: Rules or recommended standards differ as to the kinds or type of hot water heaters; whether a store must have a dressing room for employees (not lavatories); whether a food distributor should be required to place shields over flourescent lighting or to flush the lights with ceiling; whether a retailer should use hard hats or not; whether walls should be paneled or not, and if so, should it be paneled with wood, metal or plastic? And, the same with floors.

We are not saying we are opposed to legitimate inspection of the merchandise on our premises or the stores themselves. We welcome inspection. But the wide descrepancies of rules and regulations are frustrating, to say the least.

The Associated Food Dealers feels the uniform food inspection and at all levels will eliminate duplication of effort, cut down on waste, and help save taxpayers dollars. This in turn, could be passed along to consumers in the form of lower prices.

A program of information and education is also needed. The various departments of agriculture should provide each licensed establishment with a list of specific guidelines, rules and even the regulations themselves. In order to be able to abide by rules or laws, we must talk the same language, just as is done on a football field, or in school or at a chess tournament.

Enforcement of rules or laws is one thing. Knowing what is being enforced, and for what reasons, is quite something else.

Let's bring on uniformity in food inspections soon!

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ALLIED MEMBER

Eight New Supplier Members Join AFD

The Associated Food Dealers, Michigan's largest food distribution association and service organization, representing over 2,100 members wishes to welcome aboard eight new supplier members to the association. Their names, addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

ANHEUSER-BUSCH, INC., producer and distributor of a variety of beers and malt beverages, 20550 Vernier Rd., Harper Woods, Mich. 48236; Phone (313) 886-8709.

R. F. BROWN SEA FOOD CO., distributor of seafood products, 701 E. Kalamazoo St., P. O. Box 926, Lansing, Mich. 48904; Phone (517) 484-5428.

GREATER MACOMB BEER & WINE DISTRS., distributor of various beers and malt beverages, 41300 Production Dr., Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043; phone (313) 468-0959.

O'DONNELL IMPORTING COMPANY, distributor of various beers, malt beverages and wines, 18700 Meginnity, Melvindale, Mich. 48122; phone (313) 386-7600.

THE PONTIAC PRESS, daily newspaper, 48 West Huron, Pontiac, Mich. 48058; phone (313) 332-8181.

THE RELISH SHOP, distributor of a variety of relishes and condiments, 5131 St. Aubin, Detroit, Mich. 48211; phone (313) 925-5979.

VROMAN FOODS, INC., producer and distributor ice cream and related specialties, 4117 Fitch Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43613; phone (419) 479-2261.

BRA-CON INDUSTRIES, a division of Electro-Matic Inc., makers of industrial machines, fixtures, automation equipment and cardboard and paper balers, 30740 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington, Mich. 48024; phone 851-6265.

These new members and all AFD suppliers and service members deserve your support and patronage. Refer to the AFD Suppliers' Directory on Page 15 often. In fact, clip it out of The Food Dealer magazine, and post near your phone.

Membership in AFD

Means More Action, Results!

Group Blue Cross - Blue Shield Available to AFD Retailers; For Information, call 542-9550



PRIZE WINNER — Airline stewardess Barbara Davis, fourth from left, draws the winning entry of a recent WWJ "One Week" Contest. Pictured with her. from left, Don F. DeGroot, general manager of the WWJ stations; Don Merton of United Air Lines; Pete A. Kizer of WWJ-FM; Miss Davis; news anchorman Morrie Carlson; and Nat A. Sibbold, WWJ-AM manager.

Interstate Marketing Promotions

Interstate Marketing Corporation, an AFD broker member, has announced three new promotions. Louis A. Steinbacher, new retail field sales manager, will be responsible for all sales programs at retail level. Joseph Stchur, former assistant retail supervisor, was named supervisor in charge of 25 merchandisers. Robert D. Dowd, was newly named supervisor of retail store set-ups. All three have been with Interstate over ten years.



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Phone TA 5-6470 SUSTAINING MEMBER

THE BELL RINGER

Sensuous Woman or Illiberate Woman's Crusader?

By ALEX BELL

Ho-hum. After a hard day at the kibbutz trying to make a buck we will try and make your life as miserable as ours.

It looks like Dear Old F. J. is looking for a dubious honor claiming he will not be undersold. Well, let's see what the last 12 weeks' financial statement brings. Pretty soon, it has got to be green up time and we mean the long green.



Mr. Bell

The light shines in St. Louis: Retail Clerks Local 655, based in this city, opposes efforts to

legalize Sunday sales in Missouri. "Human values are more important than the almighty dollar," declares executive secretary Jack Valenti.

Well, It's Official. The NAIFR convention will be held in Las Vegas, Aug. 15-19 and we have put together a helluva package. See the ad in this issue, Page 13.

Our first wife came up with this one: A gal came into our kibbutz the other day and asked her where

RETAILERS WHY FUSS?

LET THE A.F.D. PROCESS ALL YOUR COUPONS FOR YOU THRU OUR COUPON REDEMPTION CENTER!

COUPONS MEAN CASH!

WE EMPLOY THE HANDICAPPED.

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Associated Food Dealers 434 W. Eight Mile Road Detroit, Michigan 48220 the SOS was. Our first wife said. "Oh you mean the Stupid Old Scotchman? He is behind the meat counter." All we can say is that this broad has got to go. (Edeebnote: The truth hurts. huh, Al?)

Eddie Acho tells us that now that he knows what the word "sensuous" means, he is going to buy and read "The Sensuous Woman."

On a recent visit to Chicago we had lunch with St. Francis of Arlington Heights and our old friend. The Bohemian from Berwyn, George Nepil. George arrived about one hour late for lunch and gave us a story about getting lost on the freeway, to which St. Francis quipped: "Boy. you could get lost in a bordello."

We would like to state that Jerry Yono is a lousy poker player but boy is he lucky. In fact, playing poker with him you can get a "mental hernia."

Of course we will admit playing poker without Jerry and Ed Acho is like Sunday night in Calabasas. (Edeebnote: Whereinell is Calabasa?)

We heard about a certain foodman that was going to a psychoanalist and he was doing so good that the "shrink" was finally letting him sit up on the couch!

You are a real old-timer if you remember when only working stiffs wore blue jeans.

If you ever run into a loud-mouthed, not-toobright crusader for women's rights, just remember she could be illiberate. (Yes, Eddie, it's a play on words.)

A good line for right now for a column that is going downhill: "Suddenly the plot sickens."

Bev Welch tells us about the gal that dreamed she was walking down Woodward with nothing on but a hat and she was very embarrassed because it was last year's hat.

Hubby Jay Welch tells us, that, about drinking, there is nothing between clarity and oblivion. We will drink to that.

Our good friend and compatriot Kay Adams, head honcho to Bernie Weisberg of Chatham, is on her way to Scotland to help celebrate her mother's 90th birthday. Have a good trip, Kay.

Dear John, that's all she wrote! — ACB



The Penalty of Leadership

In every field of human endeavor, he that is first must perpetually live in the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a man or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same. The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and detraction. When a man's work becomes a standard for the whole world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work be merely mediocre, he will be left severly alone—if he achieves a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging. Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play, or sing, or build, no one will strive to surpass or to slander you, unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius.

Long, long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done. Spiteful little voices in the domain of art were raised against our own Whistler as a mountebank, long after the big world had acclaimed him its greatest artistic genius. Multitudes flocked to Bayreuth to worship at the musical shrine of Wagner, while the little group of those whom he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all. The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river banks to see his boat steam by. The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or to excel, the follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy—but only confirms once more the superiority of that which he strives to supplant.

There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the human passions—envy, fear, greed, ambition, and the desire to surpass. And it all avails nothing. If the leader truly leads he remains—the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-worker, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurels through the ages. That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live—lives.

This text appeared as an advertisement in The Saturday Evening Post, January 2, 1915.

Copyright, Cadillac Motor Car Company

Published as a Member Service by the Associated Food Dealers

Merchandising

Chef Pierre, Inc., Traverse City-based producer of frozen desserts, has introduced a new frozen shortcake, termed the Long Shortcake. They are available in three fruit flavors: cherry, strawberry and pineapple.

C. F Burger Creamery, Detroit, has introduced a new dairy product, sterilized whipping cream, relatively new in Michigan. Its chief advantage is its capacity to stay fresh longer in a grocer's or consumer's dairy case or refrigerator. The new product also features rapid whippability and lasting flavor.

Budweiser Malt Liquor, a new product from Anheuser-Busch, Inc., an AFD member, has been introduced to the Michigan market. The new product has a heavier body and a deeper golden color than Budweiser beer.

Squirt-Detroit Bottling Co., an AFD member, has begun deliveries of new formula Pink Diet Squirt, with no sugar added. The new package can be quickly identified, reading "only one calorie per ounce," printed in black over silver with a pink background.

Detroit Coca-Cola Bottling Co., an AFD member, as part of its summer sales promotion, will offer a special "Summer Put-Ons" clothing sale. The items include floppy hats, boys shorts, girls mini-pants and girls' culottes with the firm's emblem and theme imprinted on them.

Automotive Topics, a new weekday radio series covering all the aspects of Detroit's auto industry, has premiered on WWJ Radio One. Host is John Spears noted auto reported.

The AFD is The Largest and Most
Active Food Trade Association
in Michigan.
Are You On The Team?
If Not, Phone 542-9550

Affiliated with the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FOOD RETAILERS
Michael Giancotti, President



BRIGHT NEW TRUCK — Stroh's Ice Cream has redesigned in trucks in commemoration of the company's 50th anniversary this year. Gari M. Stroh. executive director of Stroh's Ice Cream division, said the firm is concentrating on opening several more franchisd ice cream parlors in 1971. The new truck, above, is red with touches of gold, white and yellow.

Koepplinger's Bakery, Inc., an AFD member, announced the appointment of Ron Kimler & Associates as its advertising agency, effective immediately.

Wilson-Pfeister Co., Toledo food brokerage, has announced that Kenneth W. Parman has joined the firm as vice-president in charge of wholesale sales.

Acme Detroit Food Brokerage, an AFD member, has announced that it has been appointed representative recently for various products of the following companies: Atalanta Trading Corp., Foods, Inc., Cap Sales Corp., Douglas Food Corp., and Olds Products Co.

Peterson & Vaughan, Inc., an AFD member, has been appointed broker for Kellogg Frozen Foods Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kellogg Company, Battle Creek.

Invitation to Manufacturers, Brokers

All manufacturers and brokers are cordially invited to submit new products and merchandising ideas for publication in The Food Dealer. And remember, low cost, hard-hitting advertising in The Food Dealer reaches your important Michigan independent grocers, food chains, and beverage store operators. For advertising information and rates, phone (313) 542-9550.



Join The National Caravan to Las Vegas!

86th Annual Convention of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT FOOD RETAILERS

Five Fun-Packed Days •

Four Fabulous Nights!

August 15-19

Frontier Hotel

Las Vegas

An Attractive Package!

THE ENTIRE 86th annual convention package costs only \$275 per person (based on double occupancy) and includes round-trip direct jet plane transportation, departing Aug. 15 at 10 a.m., returning Aug. 19, p.m. In addition, the package includes the finest Deluxe accommodations, three big Dinner Shows at various hotels on the Strip featuring big name entertainment; also includes transportation to and from the airport, and baggage; free golf, free tennis; free pool lounges. Also includes convention registration fee, and open bar and gourmet meal on flights to and from Las Vegas!

IN ADDITION: Business Sessions, Speakers, activities for Ladies, Sunshine Club programs, T-Bone Club Meetings, and many other surprises. Dinner and Show schedules as follows:

Aug. 15—Sunday, Cocktail Reception and Dinner.
Aug. 16—Brunch; Dinner Show
Aug. 17—Brunch; Dinner Show
Aug. 18—Brunch; Dinner Show

Aug. 19-Breakfast; NAFR Board Meeting

Fill in the attached Reservation Blank and mail NOW! or Call . . . Alex Bell at TU 2-2530, or the A.F.D. Office at 542-9550.

ALEX BELL Nat'l, Assn. of Independent Food Retailers 434 W. Eight Mile Road Detroit, Michigan 48220		
Please reserve complete NAIFR Convention PACKAGE RE- SERVATION as outlined herein.		
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NAME ADDRESS CITY Zip Code NOTE: Reservations must be in immediately! \$50 deposit required with each reservation.		

TAX TOPICS

Factors Concerning Stockholder Loans to Corporations

By MOE R. MILLER Accountant and Tax Attorney

Stockholder loans to a closely held corporation are often carefully scrutinized and challenegd by the Treasury Department on the grounds that the loans are really stock investments, even though they meet all the legal formalities of a loan. In the eventuality that a loan is held to be stock equity, payments of interest and principal would be taxed as dividends to the shareholders and, of course, would not be deductible by the corporation.

The standards for determining debt instruments may

now be going under total change. The 1969 Reform Act provides the U.S. Treasury with specific statutory authority to issue regulations which should grant guide lines for determining whether a corporate obligation is stock or debt. The new code provision lists five factors which may be included in the Treasury regulations, but in the Senate Report it makes it clear that these are not the only factors to be included.



MILLER

The five factors listed in the Code provision are:

- 1—Whether there is a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date, a sum certain in money in return for an adequate consideration in money and to pay a fixed rate of interest.
- 2—Whether there is a subordination to or preference over any indebtedness of the corporation.
- 3—The ratio of debt to equity of the corporation.
- 4—Whether there is convertibility into stock of the corporation.
- 5—The relationship between holdings of stock in the corporation and holdings of the obligations for which the determination is being made.

These guide lines should reduce the amount of litigation involving thin corporations, including the question of the treatment of the interest payment by the corporation and the receipt of principal and interest by the shareholders.

The new satute is effective as of the date of enactment, which is December 30, 1969

The danger of this result, (stockholder loans) has caused taxpayers to attempt to avoid this exposure by having the corporation borrow directly from a bank, and if required by the bank, the shareholders would guarantee or endorse the loan. Several cases have held that

such a guaranteed loan from a bank may be treated as a direct loan from stockholders who guarantee it.

There is a serious question of whether the enactment of Section 385, which Section determines whether a debtor-creditor relationship exists, or whether a corporation-shareholder relationship exists, now retroactively covers all existing and previously issued obligations of the corporation. If the rules as set up by the regulations govern that situation, it conceivably will mean that the taxpayers could retroactively find that previously issued debts are truly equity.

In my opinion, the greatest threat to shareholder loans is where corporations face the danger of a thin corporation because of inadequate capitalization, and stockholder guarantees, it would be advisable for the shareholders to borrow part of the money personally and then contribute that as added capital. This could at least preserve the debt nature of any other stockholder loans.

HAVE ANY TAX QUESTIONS?

7/107

If you have any questions concerning taxes or related problems, drop a note to Mr. Miller care of The Food Dealer, 434 W. Eight Mile Rd., Detroit, Michigan 48220.

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