

# FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK

[ Circular No. 7461 ]  
[ September 18, 1974 ]

## BANK HOLDING COMPANIES Operation of a Travel Agency

To All Bank Holding Companies, and Others Concerned,  
in the Second Federal Reserve District:

Following is the text of a statement issued September 13 by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System today announced it will conduct an oral presentation on an application by a bank holding company to operate a travel agency, and will also consider whether or not to add this activity to those permissible for bank holding companies.

The applicant, First Bancorp, Inc., Corsicana, Texas, is seeking to retain the assets of First Travel Agency, Corsicana, Texas.

The oral presentation will be held at the Federal Reserve Board on November 7 before available members of the Board. Requests to participate should be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board by October 7, accompanied, if possible, by a brief summary of the proposed testimony. The Board will receive written comments on the issues through December 9.

Printed below is the text of the Board's Order in this matter. Written comments thereon should be submitted by December 9, 1974, and may be sent to our Domestic Banking Applications Department.

ALFRED HAYES,  
*President.*

## BANK HOLDING COMPANIES

### Notice of Application to Continue to Engage in Activities Generally Known as Operating a Travel Agency and of Possible Rulemaking with Respect Thereto

The Board of Governors has received the application of First Bancorp, Inc., Corsicana, Texas, filed pursuant to §4(c)(8) of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843(c)(8)) and §225.4(b)(2) of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.4(b)(2)), for prior approval to retain First Travel Agency, Corsicana, Texas, and thereby continue to engage in the operation of a travel agency.

The activity of engaging in the travel agency business has not heretofore been found by the Board to be closely related to banking. Applicant states that the proposed activity has been carried on by certain banks for over 100 years, and is, in Applicant's opinion, closely related to banking. Since there appears to be a reasonable basis for Applicant's opinion, this notice is published pursuant to section 225.4(a) of Regulation Y. Such a finding does not constitute a determination on the issue and, in connection with its consideration of this application, the Board will also consider whether or not to add the proposed activity to the list of activities the Board has previously determined to be closely related to banking.

Interested persons may express their views on the question of whether engaging in travel agency activities are so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto.

Interested persons may also express their views on the question of whether consummation of the subject proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of re-

sources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices."

In order to explore this issue, the Board has directed that an oral presentation be held before available members of the Board in the Board Room of its building on 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. commencing at 10:00 a.m. on November 7, 1974. Interested persons are invited to participate by presenting their views on all issues raised by the pending proposal. Interested persons need not participate in the oral presentation to have their views considered, and may do so by written comment. Written comments as they are received will be made available for inspection and copying in Room 1118 of the Board's building, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. The application may be inspected and copied at the offices of the Board of Governors or at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Any requests to participate orally in the hearing should be submitted in writing accompanied, if possible, by a brief summary of the proposed testimony, and should be received by the Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D. C. 20551, not later than October 7, 1974. Each person orally participating in the hearing would normally be expected to limit their presentation to thirty minutes. Anyone wishing to submit written comments on this matter, on testimony received at the oral presentation or on other comments received by the Board, may do so at any time before the close of business on December 9, 1974.