



NEWS RELEASE

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
St. Louis Little Rock Louisville Memphis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 1997

ST. LOUIS - The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the application of Mercantile Bancorporation Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Regional Bancshares, Inc., Alton, Illinois, thereby indirectly acquiring Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois.

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