



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1971

The Department of Justice filed suit today to block the consolidation of The Connecticut National Bank of Bridgeport and The First New Haven National Bank of New Haven.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the civil antitrust action was filed in the U.S. District Court in New Haven. Under the Bank Merger Act of 1966, the suit halts the consolidation pending court action.

The suit charged that the proposed consolidation would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act by eliminating actual and potential competition between the two banks in the Bridgeport and New Haven areas, in New Haven County, and in the area between New Haven and Bridgeport, which includes the towns of Orange, Milford, Ansonia, and Derby.

The suit also alleged that the consolidation would entrench the leading positions held by both banks in local Connecticut markets, would reduce the number of Connecticut banks capable of expanding into statewide competitors, and would trigger other mergers between leading banks in Connecticut.

Assistant Attorney General Richard W. McLaren, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said Connecticut National and the First New Haven are the fourth and seventh largest commercial banks, respectively, in Connecticut. Together, they operate a total of 69 offices in the southwestern part of the state.

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On December 31, 1970, Connecticut National held total assets of about \$398 million and total deposits of about \$354 million, and First New Haven had assets of about \$315 million and deposits of about \$261 million.

The proposed consolidation was approved by the Comptroller of the Currency on July 26, 1971.

The suit sought to have the merger declared unlawful and a permanent injunction issued.