



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1972

The Department of Justice filed suit today to block the merger of Bank of Fulton County, of East Point, Georgia, into National Bank of Georgia, located in Atlanta.

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

The suit charged that the proposed merger of Bank of Fulton County into National Bank of Georgia would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act by eliminating actual and potential competition between the two banks in Fulton County, where they are both based.

It is also alleged that the merger would eliminate competition and increase concentration in commercial banking in South Fulton County.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Walker B. Comegys, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that National Bank of Georgia, the fifth largest commercial bank in Fulton County, holds approximately 5 percent of total county banking deposits and about 7 percent of the commercial banking deposits in South Fulton County, and that Bank of Fulton County, the county's sixth largest bank, holds about

OVER

1 percent of Fulton County banking deposits and 17 percent of the commercial banking deposits in South Fulton County.

The suit states that commercial banking in Fulton County is highly concentrated, with the five largest banking organizations accounting for approximately 93 percent of all deposits.

As of June 30, 1971, National Bank of Georgia had total assets of approximately \$174.1 million and total deposits of about \$151.7 million. On the same date, Bank of Fulton County had total assets of approximately \$32.5 million and total deposits of about \$28.7 million.

The suit seeks a permanent injunction against the proposed merger. It also asks that National Bank of Georgia be enjoined, for a period of ten years, from acquiring any interest in any other banking organization in Fulton County.

The proposed merger was approved by the Comptroller of the Currency on January 11, 1972.