



## Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1972

The Department of Justice filed an antitrust suit today to prevent the acquisition of four independent banks in El Paso, Texas by Trans Texas Bancorporation, an El Paso based bank holding company.

Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the suit was filed in the U.S. District Court in El Paso. Under the Bank Merger Act of 1966, the suit halts the acquisitions pending court action.

Named as defendants in the suit were: Trans Texas Bancorporation, Inc.; El Paso National Bank; First State Bank; Northgate National Bank of El Paso; and Border City Bank.

The suit charged that the proposed acquisition of the four El Paso banks by Trans Texas Bancorporation would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act by eliminating actual and potential competition among the banks.

It is also charged that the acquisitions would eliminate competition and substantially increase concentration in commercial banking in El Paso County.

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Acting Assistant Attorney General Walker B.

Comegys, Antitrust Division, said that El Paso National is the largest commercial bank in El Paso County, with approximately 35.5 percent of total county bank deposits. Mr. Comegys also said that First State, Northgate and Border City are, in that order, the fifth, sixth and thirteenth largest commercial banks in El Paso County, and that they hold approximately 3.3, 2.5 and .2 percent of total county bank deposits, respectively.

As of June 30, 1971, El Paso National had total assets of about \$227.3 million. On the same date, First State, Northgate and Border City had total assets of approximately \$20.8 million, \$15.9 million and \$1.7 million, respectively.

The suit seeks a permanent injunction against the proposed acquisitions or any similar plan to merge or consolidate the defendants' businesses.

The proposed acquisitions were approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on February 29, 1972.