



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1979

AT
202-633-2014

The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit to block the proposed merger of two commercial banks in Utah.

The banks are Zions First National Bank, a subsidiary of Zions Utah Bancorporation of Salt Lake City, Utah, and First National Bank of Logan, Utah.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the suit, which charges that the merger would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, was filed in the United States District Court in Salt Lake City.

John H. Shenefield, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the complaint alleges that the merger will eliminate potential competition between the two banks in Cache County, Utah, including the Logan area.

Zions Utah Bancorporation is the second largest commercial banking organization headquartered in Utah. Its subsidiary, Zions First National Bank, operates 47 offices in Utah and controls more than 20 percent of the total commercial bank deposits in the state.

First National Bank of Logan is the largest commercial bank in Logan and the second largest bank in Cache County as measured by deposits. It controls 27.7 percent of the total commercial bank deposits in the county.

(MORE)

The Comptroller of the Currency approved the merger on November 30, 1979. The Bank Merger Act of 1966 provides that to enjoin the merger the Justice Department must file suit within 30 days of such approval. The suit automatically prevents the merger pending final Court action.

#