FDIC
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PR-16-90 (1-31-90)

SODERLINGS SENTENCED TO 6 1/2 YEARS FOR DEFYING COURT ORDER

A U.S. District Court Judge in San Francisco has ordered two former thrift executives to serve 6 1/2 years in jail for contempt of court and violation of probation.

The thrift executives, Leif and Jay Soderling, are former directors and shareholders of Golden Pacific Savings and Loan Association of Santa Rosa, California, which was closed by federal regulators in May 1985. The two brothers were found guilty in December of going on a $500,000 "spending spree" at the same time they claimed an inability to pay off all of the $2.3 million in restitution payments under terms of a previous bank fraud conviction.

On December 21, 1989, Judge Robert Peckham in San Francisco found the Soderlings violated their probation and were in criminal contempt. The Judge also increased the restitution amount due the FDIC from $2.3 million to $6.7 million. The FDIC already has collected $1.9 million from the Soderlings and has identified and frozen over $1 million in other assets.

At Monday's sentencing, Judge Peckham ordered the Soderlings to serve out the remainder of their 6 1/2 year sentence under their previous criminal fraud convictions and added on five years probation for violating the order freezing their assets. The Soderlings must report to jail on February 21, 1990.

FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman praised the judge's sentence and said, "The Soderlings' sentences send a strong message to anyone contemplating bank fraud that we will not tolerate this kind of criminal conduct and contempt. The FDIC will not stand idly by and allow defendants to hide their assets in

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sham trusts or other legal artifices. Cooperation among regulators and the Department of Justice in eradicating bank fraud is an FDIC priority, and this is an excellent example of how such agency cooperation ensures that crime does not pay."

The Soderling case is a continuation of work initiated by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, now the Office of Thrift Supervision.

For further information, please contact Howard Feinstein (202-906-7636), Assistant General Counsel, or Herman Manuel (202-906-6220), the FDIC staff attorney in charge of the case.

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