

FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONALEASING OF U.S. ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITY LIKELY UNDER REPUBLICANS

Early indications point to some relaxation of anti-trust enforcement activity by the Republican administration in the United States, although private enforcement is unlikely to be affected.

President Reagan has announced that he plans to nominate William Baxter as Assistant Attorney General in charge of antitrust. According to the Wall Street Journal of February 23, 1981, Mr. Baxter is regarded as taking "a generally narrow view of antitrust law" and he is expected to concentrate "on traditional enforcement against price fixing and to avoid attempts to expand antitrust law to cover new theories".

The Office of Management and Budget proposed on February 12 that the budget of the Federal Trade Commission be cut from the present \$73 millions to \$41 millions in 1985, virtually eliminating its antitrust activities by degrees. The proposal has been strongly opposed by the F.T.C.

URANIUM LITIGATION MAY WIND
DOWN

An out-of-court settlement was announced on January 29, 1980 of the uranium litigation between Westinghouse Electric Corp. on the one side and Gulf Oil Corp. and its Canadian subsidiary Gulf Minerals Canada Ltd. on the other side. The trial was to have commenced in Chicago in September, 1981. A few weeks earlier Westinghouse reached settlements with two other uranium producers, Homestake Mining and Getty Oil.

At the time of writing, Westinghouse claims against twenty-three other uranium producers, including Dennison Mines, Noranda and Rio Algom of Canada, are still scheduled for trial next September in Chicago. Also scheduled for trial at the same time is a suit by Tennessee Valley Authority against Gulf and some other uranium producers. However, according to press comments, settlement of some or all the remaining claims might be reached before the trial.

According to the Economist of February 7-13 "Gulf appears to have got off distinctly lightly in the settlement, which suggests that of the two Westinghouse was the more anxious to come to terms." However, a Gulf official is reported to have pointed to the uncertainty of a jury trial. Also, Gulf was under threat of legal sanctions for failure to comply with an order of the Chicago court to produce documents located in Canada. In March, 1980, the Supreme