

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE Jones . 2 IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY WILLIAM B. WEINBERGER, 3 Plaintiff, 4 5 v.) Civil Action No. 5462 UOP, INC., THE SIGNAL COMPANIES, INC., SIGCO INCORPORATED, LEHMAN) 7 BROTHERS KUHN LOEB, INC., CHARLES) S. ARLEDGE, BREWSTER L. ARMS, ANDREW J. CHITIEA, JAMES V. CRAWFORD, JAMES W. GLANVILLE, RICHARD A. LENON, JOHN O. LOGAN,) FRANK J. PIZZITOLA, WILLIAM J. (18) NO. QUINN, FORREST N. SHUMWAY, ROBERT) 10: S. STEVENSON, MAYNARD P. VENEMA,) 11 WILLIAM E. WALKUP and HARRY H. WETZEL, 12 Defendants. 13 Public | 14 Courtroom No. 2 15 Public Building Wilmington, Delaware Friday, February 23, 1979 16 11:05 a.m. 17 18 BEFORE HON. GROVER C. BROWN, Vice Chancellor. 19 APPEARANCES: 20 WILLIAM PRICKETT, ESOUIRE and DAVID RIPSOM, ESQUIRE, 21 Prickett, Ward, Burt & Sanders for Plaintiff; 22 23

HENRY D. SKOGMO - LORRAINE B. MARINO

Official Reporters, Chancery

Janes . APPEARANCES (Continued): 2 ROBERT K. PAYSON, ESQUIRE, Potter, Anderson & Corroon 3 -and-ALAN N. HALKETT, ESQUIRE, of the California Bar, Latham & Watkins for Defendant The Signal Companies; 5 6. A. GILCHRIST SPARKS, III, ESQUIRE, Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell for Defendant UOP: 8 R. FRANKLIN BALOTTI, ESQUIRE, Richards, Layton & Finger 9 for Defendant Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb 10 11 MR. PRICKETT: Good morning, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: Good morning, gentlemen. 13 MR. PAYSON: Good morning, Chancellor. As a preliminary matter, Alan Halkett has already been 14 introduced pro hoc vice, and he will make the argument 15 on behalf of The Signal Companies. 16 17 THE COURT: Very well. Thank you. 18 MR. SPARKS: Your Honor, before the 19 argument begins, I would like to introduce to the Court! 20 although I am not going to move his admission, Mr. John 21 Woods, General Counsel of UOP and a member of the 22 Illinois Bar.

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THE COURT: Mr. Woods, good morning.

MR. WOODS: Good morning. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

THE COURT: I am ready to hear your arguments on your motion for class action determination.

that is before the Court at this point is the plaintiff's request for class certification under Rule 23. The issues before the Court are narrowed by the concession of the defendants. I say the defendants because for some reason in this situation Signal has taken upon itself the goal of attempting to oppose class certification, and it is joined by UOP and by Lehman Brothers. I make no moment of the fact that it is Signal rather than UOP that takes the job on, since they all three join in it, but I do point out that in contrast to the normal situation where there is a contest on several of the salient features of Rule 23.

In this case the defendants can only sign a brief in which two points are contested, one of which we don't think really lies within Rule 23, but rather lies within the scope of the Singer decision. And therefore, the only real question under Rule 23 is whether or not the Court accepts the arguments made by Signal as to the adequacy of my client, Mr. Weinberger, here in the courtroom, to act as a class representative.

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On this question we are miles apart.

Let me say at the outset that I repeat that it is anomalous that Signal on behalf of the defendants purports to champion the rights of other plaintiffs in opposing Mr. Weinberger's application for class certification. It is curious and, I suppose, only in the Alice in Wonderland of the legal world could we find a situation where the party who has most to gain from the defeat of the motion is the person who proposes to suggest to the Court the inadequacies of the class representatives.

Laying aside for a second the obvious self-interest of Signal in defeating the class certification motion and stripping it away to its essentials, what is it that they say about Mr. Weinberger in their efforts to persuade the Court not to grant class certification? I think it boils down to three things. First, they say that Mr. Weinberger is not a lawyer. Second, they say he is not a financial analyst. And third, they find that in early December when his deposition was taken, Mr. Weinberger was not as closely advised on the procedural details and status of the case as the attorneys for Signal believe he should have been.

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Let me take these up in order. We concede that Mr. Weinberger is not a lawyer, but there is nothing in the Rule, the cases or the authorities, that suggests that a class action plaintiff, or indeed, any plaintiff, is required at the peril of not achieving certification that he himself be a lawyer.

Mr. Weinberger correctly responded to the questions of Signal to the effect that he did not know the pigeties.

Signal to the effect that he did not know the niceties of what would lead a Court to grant class certification and what would not. Indeed, the Newberg book, six volumes long, is filled with cases where judges and lawyers have argued about that, and Mr. Weinberger correctly did not venture into that highly litigated and highly controversial situation.

point on Page 18 of their brief about what seems to me to be some sort of a problem in semantics. If your Honor paused on this detail, Mr. Weinberger made it clear that he examined the complaint after it was drawn and approved it. And then he was asked a question, and he seems to have said, or is reported to have said that he approved the complaint before it was drawn. I think I have said that correctly. If that is the substance of Signal's defense or offense against the class

certification, it is pretty thin. He said he examined the complaint after it was drawn and he approved it.

That is all he is required to do. The suggestions that he has got to correct an attorney's work in order to be the diligent plaintiff that Signal suggests is absurd.

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Now, secondly, the plaintiff is attacked on the grounds that he is not a financial analyst. What are the facts? Mr. Weinberger, a stockholder and a stockholder who is more equipped to deal in the rough world of corporate finance than most by his training and work as a CPA, got some information from UOP concerning this proposed merger. The more he looked at it, the more suspicious he became that he and his fellow stockholders were being unfairly dealt with, not only on liability — and by that I mean not only in terms of what was being done — but also in terms of the price.

The way to determine a fair price as between public minority stockholders and a dominant, aggressive majority, such as existed here, is through arm's-length negotiations. They want it, and if you get a negotiation, then you end up with a price that is one that the buyers are willing to extend and the sellers are willing to accept. But that wasn't done here.

There was no negotiation at all. Signal proposed a

price, and Crawford, the head of UOP, an ex-Signal employee and a director of Signal, accepted it the first time he heard it, never tried to get a nickel more, and the board did the same thing. They never asked, can we get a nickel more for these people. They just accepted it.

The problem, therefore, now is, assuming liability, what would have been a fair price. Of course, it is difficult to go back and say what would have come out of negotiations, because you can't really tell how bad did Signal want it. You can tell the economic parameters at which it would have been advantageous, but how bad would they have wanted it and how much more would they have given if somebody had said, okay, go pound sand, we won't accept your offer? Would they have come back with the extra \$5, or would they have compromised at 2.50? Would they have said, we can afford to wait it out? You can't tell. To reconstruct that you have got to see what in comparable situations in an arm's-length bargaining situation the result has And this is a task that calls for a good deal of work and a good deal of knowledge, a good deal of information and some expertise, because you have to raconstruct it.

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This case started in July. The time for answer was extended -- and I don't make anything of that -- until August. The production of documents I think took place before I left on an extended vacation, but the depositions started in October and went through November, all by agreement, and the plaintiff's deposition was taken early in December. By that time we were confirmed in what we had stated in the complaint by the depositions and the production. And we turned to obtaining somebody other than a lawyer and other than a client who could analyze not only the fact that the price wasn't right -- we already knew that -- but just how much more should be awarded in damages in the absence of this negotiation that is the hallmark of a fair transaction between a dominant majority and a defenseless minority.

At the time the deposition was taken, we did not have a firm agreement with an analyst. We were getting in touch with him. And as I say, my New York counsel was sick and out of action.

There is a tremendous amount of weight put on the fact that Mr. Weinberger was not familiar at the time with the efforts of counsel to obtain the requisite financial analyst who could prepare for us a

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report of the extent of the damages and the proof of the damages. Now, the fact that in those initial negotiations and conferences with the expert Mr. Weinberger was not in at that time does not seem to suggest to me that he is not qualified to act as a class action representative. He has retained what is conceded by the defendants to be counsel who are equipped to handle the case for him, and we were doing our job. If there was a problem, it was that there was not that degree of information flowing to the plaintiff that Signal in retrospect now makes so much of.

Let me point out that Mr. Weinberger had made some calculations, not the detailed calculations that would be presented to the Court in proof of our claim when this case is tried in May, but his own calculations. And that is, he figured that the price was in excess of \$32. Now, that, therefore, is the second point that they make; that is, that Mr. Weinberger is not a financial analyst. And again, we concede that, but again we say that there is nothing in the Rule nor in the cases nor in the authorities that suggests that a class action plaintiff has got to be a financial analyst and has got to be a do-it-yourself man on the damage question.

The final thing that Signal is able to dredge out of a daylong deposition and a lot of briefing is the fact that Mr. Weinberger on December 10 or 9 or whatever it was, was not as intimately acquainted with the procedural details of this case as Signal claims he should have been.

First of all, I don't think there is anything in the cases that indicates that a plaintiff, at the peril of not being certified, has got to have a day-to-day knowledge of the procedural details of the case and the status. Certainly, none of the cases that they bring up go nearly that far. Where there is a demonstrated disinclination on the part of the plaintiff to take any meaningful role -- and there was a case such as that cited -- then perhaps the Court might feel that the class was not being represented. Those cases are usually coupled with an antagonistic relationship with the rest of the class or a blood or legal relationship with counsel. And, as I demonstrated in the reply brief, there is nothing of that situation Mr. Weinberger in this case, as in many cases, has taken the lead in the corporate field to act as a representative to right corporate wrongs. And I might say in that connection in a deposition that took all

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day, there was not a single hint of impropriety turned up so far as Mr. Weinberger or, indeed, any of his counsel that he has retained in this situation.

Now, I would suppose that I could take any deponent in a case and show, unless he was deliberately prepared on it, that he didn't know the procedural niceties of a complicated case. Indeed, I think I could have done it in this case to some of the corporate officers whose depositions I took. But I really wan't interested in that. I was more interested in the merits. But here there is the suggestion that

Mr. Weinberger not be certified because in a daylong deposition they were able to show that he did not know some of the steps that were being taken on his behalf.

Now, I don't think there is any necessity for him to have that close of an acquaintanceship, but if there is a fault in that connection, it lies with counsel, whose obligation it is to inform him. And, as I say, my New York associate was ill at the time and about to be hospitalized. He fortunately is out of the hospital now and getting back in the harness, but at the time I didn't realize it and he was not as close to the plaintiff in keeping him posted as he might have been.

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That situation is remedied.

Mr. Weinberger is fully posted on the status of the case. He has given me his suggestions and notes on the status of the case and the things that are being done, and whatever deficiency there was at that particular period has been remedied. And the suggestion in one of the cases that there is a disinclination on the part of the plaintiff in that case to become familiar with the details of the case certainly is not applicable to this situation.

In short, then, the points that Signal makes are of no merit. Mr. Weinberger, contrary to the suggestions, is the very type of person by ability, training, interest and financial responsibility who was envisaged when the Rule was drawn. Therefore, he should be certified in this case as the class representative, and the slurs made against him and the suggestions that he is inappropriate should be overruled.

The other aspect of Signal's motion concerns itself with the size of the class. I guess Signal is serious about this, but their argument is, I think, transparent. That is, stripped down to its essentials, they say that anybody that voted or tendered should not be a member of the class. What that means is that

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anybody against whom this conspiracy and freud worked should not be a member of the class. Well, the whole basis of the case is to obtain redress for those who were taken in, for those who did suppose that their rights were being protected by the fiduciaries, both in Signal and UOP, whose first responsibility was to the UOP stockholders. And it is ingenuous, to put it charitably, for Signal to suggest on behalf of its corporate fellows that the success of their efforts is to be kept by eliminating the very people who were taken in.

Now, quite apart from that, it would seem to me that Your Honor's ruling or rather opinion in the recent Singer case would have and should have indicated, though the facts are somewhat different, the clear road that the Delaware courts are taking in connection with the redress of alleged corporate abuses vis-a-vis a defenseless minority, and that the suggestion made that simply because some people voted for it or some people in the absence of full knowledge turned in their securities, they are going to be eliminated from the class, it seems to me flies in the face of the clear tenor of the law generally, and specifically in the face of Your Honor's Singer class action opinion in

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which some of the counsel participated, and which came down as recently as December, 1978.

And therefore, Your Honor, we would suggest that the defendants have conceded the application for class certification on all but one point; that is, the fitness of Mr. Weinberger to be a class representative. And as to that, the record, including the deposition which they took, demonstrates that, contrary to their assertions, he is the very type of person who must be certified if Rule 23 is to work. And as to the second point, the Singer opinion is dispositive at least in its effect so far as an attempt to limit the class. Thank you, Your Honor.

am sure Mr. Halkett and Mr. Payson are aware that the Singer class action decision that Mr. Prickett refers to is technically not final, I guess, since there is a standing motion for re-argument which counsel keeps continuing for reasons unknown to me.

MR. HALKETT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I hope I can guess the reason why they are doing it, but I don't know.

MR. HALKETT: I believe this is the one that counsel was talking about. I not only have it; I

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MR. PRICKETT: Your Honor, it was referred to in the reply brief.

amounted to an effort on my part to try and, should I say, decipher what the Supreme Court has ruled in the appeal of the Singer versus Magnavox case, which we are all familiar with. Whether I hit it or not remains to be seen.

MR. HALKETT: First of all, I will address myself to this question of the adequacy of the class representation, if I may. I think there is, indeed, a disparity between the plaintiff's counsel and ourselves as to what Rule 23(a)(4) is all about and why it is that we have raised the question here insofar as the adequacy of class representation.

At the outset I think we ought to address a comment or two in Mr. Prickett's argument. He said that there were three things: number one, that Mr. Weinberger was not a lawyer; number two, that he was not a financial analyst; and number three, he was not advised about procedural matters.

First of all, those initial two are simply straw men which the plaintiff has raised. We in

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no way contend that a class action representative must be a lawyer or must be a financial analyst, and nowhere in our papers is there any such suggestion made. We know that he is not either of those two things, and that is not the question before the house. The question is whether or not under the Rule and under the cases this particular individual has the knowledge, interest and participation in the case to serve properly as a class representative.

Mr. Prickett also suggests, both in his brief and in oral argument, that it seems somewhat anomalous that Signal would take the position of raising this issue. Well, first of all, I think that it is important to keep in mind that we have an action pending before the Court. We have not said that it should not in any form or with any representative go forward as a class action. We have said that it should not go forward as a class action with regard to this class action, and we have disagreed on the size of the class.

As a class action, due process requires that in order for there to be a binding effect of any judgment or any ruling in the case on all members of the class that the class representative be a proper and adequate representative. If that representative who is

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chosen and who goes forward does not meet the test, then notwithstanding the entire procedure, some other purported member of the class can come in and retro-actively raise the question of adequacy of representation and perhaps open the whole thing up for additional litigation. It is enough to have to be put in this position as a defendant without having to run the risk of going through it several times.

There is a very proper and valid reason why defendants in class actions are concerned about the adequacy of the representation. The position apparently that the plaintiff has taken is that the only thing that is required of a class representative is as indicated in their brief at Page 12, and that is, he retained attorneys. The law does not require any more, they say. In other words, apparently the plaintiff's position with regard to representation is, all you need is an adequate lawyer, and that solves Rule 23(a)(4). It is not.

Now, let's look at the real test, then, and that is whether or not the individual can properly represent the class. I think that what we have here is a tacit recognition by the plaintiff that

Mr. Weinberger did not possess the requisite knowledge

to actively participate in the decisional aspects of the case, but they seek to find some reason to excuse that lack of knowledge and participation. In that connection the first and major thrust, I believe, is Mr. Charles Trynin, who is of counsel in this case and in New York, was ill and therefore could not perform that function.

I would like, if I may, to turn to the deposition transcript of Mr. Weinberger, which I believe has been filed with the Court, and I would like to turn to Page 124, beginning at Line 22, and I would like to point out that this is examination of Mr. Weinberger by his own counsel, Mr. Prickett:

"Question: Since the time of the filing of the action, have you been in touch with Mr. Trynin?

"Answer: Yes.

"Question: Has this been in person, by phone, or both?

"Answer: Both.

"Question: Have you been kept posted of the progress of the suit?

"Answer: Yes.

"Question: As the plaintiff in the suit,

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are you satisfied with the progress of the suit to date?

"Answer: Yes."

Apparently, Mr. Trynin's illness was not such that he was unable to keep Mr. Weinberger so posted. Mr. Weinberger testified to that under oath. Also, I believe in their brief they state that Mr. Trynin's illness prevented him from working more than three days in December. I think we probably were fortunate enough that one of those three days were spent at least in part with us during Mr. Weinberger's deposition. He did not spend the entire day, but he was there, I believe, half the day.

Whatever the reason that Mr. Weinberger did not possess the information or knowledge about the case, he did not possess it. On that score, I notice that every time Mr. Prickett made reference to Mr. Weinberger's lack of knowledge, he was sure to use the word "procedural" in there, as if the word "procedural" preceding anything makes it de minimis and unimportant.

Well, first of all, as we pointed out in our brief, Mr. Weinberger's lack of knowledge and participation was to all aspects of the case, certainly

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not just procedural. There were at the time of his deposition three motions pending, two of which were of quite some moment, as we pointed out. He knew about none of them. He was not aware of the status of discovery. He was not aware of expenses or costs. He was not aware and had not met his lead counsel until two days before the deposition, and he had no knowledge whatsoever and seemed to care less about the hiring of or the results of any communications with a financial analyst.

when we talk about Mr. Trynin and his illness, I think it is also relevant to point out that maybe we have a different problem that has surfaced here. As plaintiff's counsel recognizes in their opening brief at Page 18, Rule 23(a) requires that the class representatives and their attorneys must vigorously assert and protect the interest of the class. On that score, the only attorneys to whom any reference whatsoever is made in the plaintiff's opening brief is the firm of Prickett, Ward, Burt & Sanders. And certainly, their experience is set forth, and as we indicated in our brief, we do not challenge their capability to serve as counsel for the class action.

On the other hand, we know nothing about

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Mr. Trynin, who now has been thrown up as one of the counsel and perhaps the counsel responsible for dealing with the class representative or the purported class representative. Maybe what we have here is a lack of information about counsel as well as the lack of adequate representation by the individual class representative.

Another thought that is expressed in the plaintiff's brief is that, well, maybe Mr. Weinberger doesn't really know what he should about this case, but he is well experienced. His prior track record is such that, but for Mr. Trynin's illness, he would be right up to snuff on this case. Let's examine that logic for a moment.

In Mr. Weinberger's deposition, beginning at Page 81, it turned out that he is presently, he thinks at least, the class plaintiff in an action pending in Denver, Colorado. Of course, he doesn't know in what court that case is pending. He does not know the name or names of his counsel in Colorado who are representing him. He is not sure when that action was filed. And insofar as his knowledge about the present status of that case, it comes down to two words: "It's pending."

Closer to home, Mr. Weinberger's encyclopedic knowledge of his litigation matters, we asked him about a case which this Court should be familiar with, Sam Witchner, et al versus Rapid American, in which Mr. Weinberger is one of the named plaintiffs. quired, beginning at Page 72 of the deposition, of Mr. Weinberger's knowledge of that litigation. Mr. Weinberger was not aware of the status of that case, He believed it had been settled some five or six years He was wholly unaware of the fact that in 1976 the Court had refused to approve a proposed settlement. was totally unaware of the fact that some eleven months only before his deposition in January of last year this Court had entered an order finally disposing of this case, and, in fact, he was unaware of the fact that \$280,000 had been paid to the plaintiff's counsel in that case.

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Also, if one will check his deposition and the record in that case, he even got his counsel's name wrong. As we have pointed out in our brief in a footnote on Page 11, Mr. Weinberger, who had never met Mr. Prickett or any member of his firm or conversed with them at any time prior to two days before his deposition last December, had obviously never communicated with

that firm which represented him in this court in a case called Weinberger versus Stewart. At Pages 62 and 63 of his deposition he had no knowledge of a case involving the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, in which he was the named plaintiff. At Page 67 of his deposition, the Merritt, Chapman, Scott litigation he thought was still pending, but he wasn't even sure what court it was in.

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This is the person whom Mr. Prickett says is the model class representative. He said so in his brief. He said it here this morning. He said in his brief, "It is difficult to imagine anyone more qualified to act as a class representative." And I think that underscores the difference that exists between what plaintiff's view is of a class representative and what both ours and other courts' views are of what a class representative is.

Apparently the idea of all you do is hire a lawyer and stand out of the way is the plaintiff's idea of adequate class representation. We submit that that is not what is required and there has been no showing in this case that Mr. Weinberger possesses the knowledge or the interest or the ability to undertake the role which he has to carry to vigorously represent the members of the class.

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On that score, one final point.

Mr. Prickett suggests that perhaps it is counsel's fault. They should have been more diligent in keeping Mr. Weinberger apprised. I suggest that that is not the case. I suggest that it is Mr. Weinberger's doing to make darn sure that as the class representative he is checking on what is going on, not waiting for his telephone to ring.

There is a suggestion which is also made in the brief that, well, even if Mr. Weinberger doesn't know these things, to refuse to certify him as a class representative is for all intents and purposes permitting this case to go away. That is not true. As this Court is very well aware, in any situation in which a proposed class representative is not approved by the Court, an opportunity is available for other persons to come in either in lieu of or in addition to the proposed class representative, such that a person qualifying as a proper and adequate representative will go forward with the class.

As a matter of fact, the case which we referred to and to which plaintiff's counsel refers and, in fact, adds a copy of the opinion to their brief as Exhibit A -- that is the in re Goldchip Funding

matter -- indicates that after the denial of the original motion to certify it as a class action, two additional plaintiffs and proposed representatives were joined, and on a subsequent motion then it was certified as a class action with those persons in addition to the original ones as a class representative.

Before we turn directly to the second issue -- that is, the size of the class -- I would like to take issue with, again, another choice of language The stockholders of UOP, the minority by Mr. Prickett. stockholders I suppose are going to be from here on in labeled as the defenseless stockholders. At least I seem to recall that word appearing as an adjective in Mr. Prickett's discussion. It is totally inappropriate This is not a case in which the minority sharehere. holders of UOP were defenseless. As a matter of fact, had it not been for their own voluntary acts of voting in favor of the merger, there would have been no merger. This is not a situation such as Singer in which the majority, utilizing the power which it had as a majority to accomplish a merger, did so on its own. Even though Signal had the ability to do it on its own, it chose to so arrange the proposed transaction that it required the vote of the majority of the minority to

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approve the transaction. And as the figures which we set forth in our brief indicate, that majority voted in favor of it. So I disagree entirely that what we had was a defenseless minority.

We are very well aware of the Singer decision, and as we say in our brief, we do not believe that that decision of Your Honor is determinative here. First of all, it is a little difficult to come to grips with the parameters of this particular litigation. The complaint in this case, the charges that are made seem to change shape and color as the needs arise insofar as the plaintiff is concerned.

First of all, we realize that in cases of this general type it is possible to allege and to proceed on the basis of a breach of fiduciary duty. It is also possible to proceed on the basis of fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or it is possible to proceed on a combination of both. The way this case is pleaded in the complaint, the way it has proceeded up to now, is a breach of fiduciary duty case. It has not been pleaded, it has not gone forward as a fraud and misrepresentation case.

Now, I think that it's important to keep in mind in the analysis, because I think in terms of

the class and the size and the membership of the class, we should start by looking at it as a breach of fiduciary duty case. That was what Singer was, and that, having read Your Honor's opinion, was the basis of the inclusion within the class of all of the minority shareholders, because the claim was that there had been as to those people and all of them a breach of the fiduciary duty, at least an allegation of breach of fiduciary duty as to all of them, because the majority shareholder had used its position as a majority shareholder to accomplish the act complained of, to wit: the merger in that case.

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Now, what we have here is a situation in which, although Signal was a majority stockholder, it did not use its position as a majority stockholder to achieve the act which is here complained of, to wit: the merger. It chose instead to allow the minority to decide for themselves. It did not exercise its power to do so on its own. Therefore, the distinction is that we don't have a prima facie case here of the abuse of a fiduciary duty to achieve the acts complained of.

Therefore, we believe that what this then becomes is a case in which one must examine the traditional rules which are applicable and, as we have outlined in our

brief, those cases which say that the people who vote for and who intentionally perform acts with knowledge of what they are doing cannot later be heard to complain of those very same acts. Call it estoppel, call it what you will. And for that reason they cannot later come in and seek to set those acts aside or to benefit further from them.

We submit that both those groups which voted in favor of the merger and who subsequently turned in their certificates and received the Cash have confirmed the validity of the merger as to them, and they, as far as we are concerned, are not entitled to proceed as members of the class in this case.

Now, I think that what has happened here is tacitly plaintiff's counsel recognizes this distinction, and what they have done is tried to pull this back into the fraud arena by alleging, well, but their votes, really, you can't count those, because they were obtained through some sort of fraud or deceit or whatever. Well, if indeed that is the case, then what we submit is perhaps this is not proper at all as a class action, because what we very well may then have to have is for each person who is seeking relief who voted in favor of the merger a showing that that person was,

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indeed, deceived. That is particularly true in this case, because it is clear from the deposition testimony of the purported class representative, Mr. Weinberger, that he was never deceived, never.

Now, Mr. Prickett throughout this litigation has tended to focus in on this business of negotiation. So I would like to turn to that subject, if I
may.

At Page 131 of Mr. Weinberger's deposition, beginning at Line 14, the question was asked,
"Mr. Weinberger, you were also asked by Mr. Prickett
questions about the negotiations which occurred or that
you had assumed or believed occurred on behalf of UOP.
On that subject matter, up to and including the date of
the meeting on May 26th, 1978, was it your understanding and belief that the management of UOP had indeed
negotiated the best price possible which could be
obtained for the shares of the minority stockholders?

"Answer: No. No, I don't think that they -- they did not negotiate at arm's length.

"Question: When did you first ascertain that fact?

"Answer: Gradually, over a period of time. One does not come to these conclusions

the way you add one and one make two. Something like this takes some thought and time.

"Question: But you had come to that conclusion prior to the date of the meeting; is that correct?

"Answer: Very likely, yes.

"Question: Do you know what information you received and from what source over the period of time prior to the meeting which led you to the conclusion that there had not been such negotiations on behalf of UOP?

"Answer: The only material that I have had has been displayed here, with the possible exception of the Standard & Poor's stock guide and those corporate reports that I turned over to Mr. Trynin."

answer were ones which he received from the company. In other words if, indeed, it is the plaintiff's position that members of the class are those who may, depending upon the facts as may be ascertained at the time of trial, have been deceived into voting in favor of this transaction, then Mr. Weinberger does not fit that bill.

What we have here is somebody -- namely,

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Mr. Weinberger -- who has testified that he chose not to vote for this with the knowledge that he now claims in this litigation as being the grounds for the suit and the recovery which he seeks. As a class representative, Mr. Weinberger stands in the shoes of all members of the class. And consequently as of this moment in time, at least, if he was not deceived, that fact would apply to all members of the class whom he purports to represent. And therefore, we are right back to where we were before; namely, this is a case in which those persons who voted in favor of the transaction should not be permitted to participate as a member of the class seeking recovery.

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Before I conclude, there are one or two little things to pick up. Both in his brief and in his oral argument plaintiff's counsel refers to the fact that Mr. Weinberger didn't know all of this business about class actions and, in fact, so many volumes needed to cover it. Well, that wasn't the point at all. The reason that came up in the deposition is because Mr. Prickett asked a question of his own witness.

Mr. Prickett asked Mr. Weinberger whether he,

Mr. Weinberger, thought it was appropriate that this thing go forward as a class action, to which

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Mr. Weinberger answered in the affirmative. 2 recross after that question and answer that we tried to ascertain Mr. Weinberger's background and knowledge on 3 which he could give any meaningful answer. 4

we discovered he did not know any of the criteria on which he could have based the prior answer that he gave

7: to Mr. Prickett's question.

> In conclusion, Your Honor, we suggest that if this is to go forward as a class action, there are currently 150,000 shares which have not been turned in, that including the 90 owned by Mr. Weinberger, if those persons wish to go forward and to try this case to see whether or not before they turn in their shares they might be entitled to something more, we have no Objection to those persons being joined in the class.

> And, secondly, we believe that an appropriate class representative other than Mr. Weinberger should be obtained and go forward, one who can, indeed, participate and work with and deal with his counsel and with the issues of the case. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Halkett. Let me ask one quastion, if I might, before you depart.

> MR. HALKETT: Sure.

THE COURT: Can you give any expression

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as to in general terms what capabilities would be required of a proper class representative? I certainly understand your arguments as to why you feel from the deposition that Mr. Weinberger has not displayed sufficient capability to represent the class, and I appreciate your reasons for it. Generally, what should he have, as you see it?

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MR. HALKETT: I think a reasonably intelligent person is all that is required, I would say a reasonably intelligent person in a reasonable state of health who is available to talk and to communicate are the capabilities that are required. What one does with those capabilities really is the question. If one is disinterested or disinclined for any reason to become involved, to learn about the case, to find out about the facts and to work with counsel and to give some direction, then that is the person who should not be the class representative.

As we point out in the case, the whole issue really is, and as the Courts have pointed out, it is not proper for counsel for the plaintiff to be the sole one making the decisions and running the case.

There is an inherent conflict of interest in that situation, and you need somebody as a "client" to

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effectively moderate that, and that is all you are talking about.

THE COURT: The determination, then, of one's capabilities or qualifications as a class representative is, from what I am hearing today I can assume, that the position has to be filled or vacated, as the case may be, based on what has happened from the time of the filing of the suit to the time of application for certification of the class, including anything that took place before the filing of the suit, who seeks that status. That was a little wordy, but --

MR. HALKETT: I think I understand what you are saying. I am not sure --

THE COURT: Let me state it differently. Certainly, what you have done is taken the deposition of Mr. Weinberger some five or six months after the suit was filed, and as a result, your feeling is that this has shown that he had insufficient knowledge and capability for you to represent the plaintiffs of a class, based on what has happened since the suit was filed and what he knew of it immediately prior to the stock-holders' meeting.

Would that be, then, the time frame that the Court can look to in determining what a person has

done? In other words, if a person is active, if he gets in with those things, if he is at counsel's elbow and nagging him every five minutes to get something done, that would paint a better picture, obviously.

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MR. HALKETT: It certainly would. One of the things inherent in your question and one of the reasons why I have difficulty with it is because, first of all, Rule 23(a)(3) and (a)(4) are two separate questions. If, indeed, there is the thought that the class should include all of the minority shareholders, including those who voted in favor of the merger and those who subsequently turned in their certificates, then I think Mr. Weinberger is an inappropriate class representative on an absolutely incurable basis.

THE COURT: I understand your argument there.

MR. HALKETT: Because those facts are there, and he can't tip them and he can't fairly represent them.

On the second aspect, Rule 23(a)(4), I think that the only thing that the Court has to deal with is the facts which are before him at the time the plaintiff makes the motion for class certification. In some cases the impropriety of the class representative

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MR. PRICKETT: Your Honor, I don't think it lies in the mouth of counsel admitted pro hoc vice,

is probably incurable. For example, if the class plaintiff is the daughter of the plaintiff's counsel, they can't go out and change that, and that is a critical disability. On the other hand, if it is because the person has not been active or has not chosen to be active, I think that is curable if a subsequent proper showing were made to the Court that that person has now, to use the jargon, got his act together.

The question that we have here with this particular individual is with his track record, as demonstrated in the deposition. He has given no indication in any case of having gotten his act together. And therefore, I think that it is unlikely from a quick trip to Delaware for the purpose of this hearing to expect that he is going to be the type of person to adequately represent the class. So I am saying generally you could have a curative situation. In this case, I think, on the facts I don't believe you can.

THE COURT: All right. I think you had a very responsive answer to a rather vague question. Thank you, Mr. Halkett, very much.

All right, Mr. Prickett.

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who come here on a cram basis to argue, to throw innuendoes at a plaintiff who comes to attend a hearing and
who argues perhaps on recently acquired information on
the basis learnedly of Delaware law. The argument
changes a little bit in its written form to what is
presented here. I don't propose to take the Court's
time to go through some of the things that were said.

guess back to the basic fact that Signal, through its California counsel, seeks desperately to prevent certification. And no matter how you dress it, it is because they want to terminate this litigation by preventing any information of this to get to those whom they defrauded. And I will get to that in a moment. They want this thing terminated here and now. And if they can prevent certification, they think that the case will come to an end, and that is the basis of all these pious and learned arguments about adequacy of representation.

They are not interested in that. They want to terminate this litigation, and the way they want to do it is by attacking Mr. Weinberger so that nobody will learn about this suit and it will end simply on the class certification argument.

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though totally absent from the brief, that there is some fear that if there was certification, that it could later be re-litigated if somebody found that Mr. Weinberger was inadequate. That is the parade of horribles. That is not going to happen. We are going to litigate this case, and we are going to show that there was a conspiracy by Signal and UOP and its incestuous management and directors, who were on both sides, with their house investment counsellor, Mr. Glanville, to put together a charade that would convince the public stockholders that their rights had been protected by fiduciaries negotiating at arm's length on behalf of these people.

Sure, they were very successful. They took in most of the people who had a right to rely on the fact that their paid management, their paid attorneys and their directors would stand up against Signal and protect the outsiders. And they have hit upon the device of presenting the thing for a vote, and then they get the vote and say, see, all these people voted for it, and now they are precluded, and somebody has stepped forward and said this thing is a fraud and a conspiracy. They voted for it.

the Court come back to the fundamental proposition that many Courts have seen and announced, that in viewing any of these arguments made by the defendants' counsel, you have to recognize, to use the vernacular, where they are coming from. And where they are coming from is the defeat of this suit either by a class action defeat or the matter before you, a derivative action defeat.

Nov, there is a suggestion that -- well, there are bits and pieces picked up. One of the things they say is that Mr. Weinberger in the brief is represented, having retained counsel, and that is all he has That is not all he has got to do. He can't got to do. be antagonistic to the class. He can't have a private relationship with counsel either by blood or legal ties or anything like that. He doesn't have any of that. Basically he has got to be, as I say, reasonably intelligent, and he has got to get to an attorney and got to be interested in the case. And I suggest to you that that is satisfied here. The person who is not satisfied or the organization is Signal. Mr. Weinberger is satisfied with what we have done. We deposed most of their people, a good many of them, and we are going to

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depose the rest. We have moved for production. It is Signal that says it is not satisfied.

There is a suggestion about Mr. Trynin.

Yes, Mr. Trynin at considerable inconvenience came out of a sickbed and came to the deposition, but he didn't stay for a half a day. Mr. Halkett is wrong. He stayed for a part of the day and then went back. And what I didn't realize and now realize is that he was sicker than he was, and he went into the hospital shortly after that.

Mr. Halkett raises the Goldchip case, but let's look at Goldchip. There was an application for class certification, affidavits submitted. The Court looked at the affidavits. They didn't deny certification. They said, on the present record we are not going to go forward and grant the motion. They did not say these people are denied class determination status. There was an evidentiary hearing. Counsel in that case took the precaution of having two additional plaintiffs. What the Court did say was, after hearing, we certify the original plaintiffs, finding them qualified, and it was simply that counsel in that case had approached the certification question without anything more than the affidavit. And on that showing the Court wasn't

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satisfied, but the unreported opinion which we took the trouble to get and have attached to our brief shows that when there was a full hearing, the Court did affirmatively certify the original plaintiffs. I don't think the plaintiff should be disqualified on anything that Mr. Halkett suggests, especially when you view the situation from the obvious self-interest of Signal in defeating the case at this point.

I come now to I think a more interesting, though perhaps not as germane to the present question that is raised by Mr. Halkett's argument, and it stems from the defenseless stockholder phrase. Here I suggest that we are going to get into the ultimate question that is going to be before the Court. In Singer there is no question that there was complete revelation by the majority, what they were going to do to the minority. They just did it. And the Court said, no, you can't do that.

The next step on that is to try and insulate that by getting a minority stock group to vote for it. And that's what they did here. They recognized that they had to do something more than just push it through with their own majority, so they set up a situation that makes it look to the minority as if the

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tenets of Singer are being observed. But the record even now demonstrates that while there was a facade of the protection of the minority such that you could put out a proxy statement saying, Lehman Brothers has given an opinion and the board and management have considered this, even on the first deposition you find that the majority has not even considered their responsibilities to the minority. These people who are all dominated by Signal go through a charade, a ballet, if you like, to convince the minority that there has been some protection of their rights, but there is a script -- it is in the record now -- showing exactly what they are going You are going to do this, I am going to do that, to do. this is the timing of the thing, we have got the phone calls all set up. Lehman is going to deliver the opinion, and we will be able to recite. exactly what happened.

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And then on the basis of that they take in the stockholders, except for a few wily birds like Mr. Weinberger, who smell a corporate rat. They take them all in and then they say, you know, these people voted for this, how can they complain?

The thing is so pat that it is beautiful in its conception; that is, how are you going to get it

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done? And the way you are going to get it done is to make it appear that the fiduciaries have done their duty.

Now, there is some suggestion by Mr. Halkett, not appropriate, I think, to this prodeeding, but its time will come when the Court will consider the complaint in the light of Singer and its development. We have pleaded in terms of the notice requirements the essentials of the conspiracy, and conspiracy necessarily involves deception, between Signal, the dominant stockholder, and its handmaiden, UOP, and its directors, with the willing compliance of Lehman, its banker, for a price. And we assert not a Singertype situation but another wrinkle on Singer: that is, where you comply on the face with the requirements and you obtain a stockholders' vote, but beneath that you find that there has been no observance of fiduciary responsibility in terms of the requirements of Singer.

But even more than that, you find there has been fraud and deception of the stockholders. We think that ultimately the Court will be called to rule upon that situation in terms of the proof that will be developed at trial. It is not before the Court now.

What is before the Court is the scope of

the class. And in this situation it seems to us that unless the Court is prepared on counsel's assertion to say that there was total disclosure, unless the Court buys that, you can't cut the class down; because to cut the class down would be to say that you accept Signal's representation that there was total and complete disclosure. And therefore, the vote insulates Signal from the total class, and it is restricted to those who either by suspicion or knowledge or indifference didn't vote for the thing, or who have tendered their shares. They either did not get around to it — there may be a lot of reasons for that.

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It seems to us in terms of the Singer situation and Your Honor's recent decision, while the case is a little bit different, the Court cannot cut down the class now unless the Court is willing to rule that there was complete disclosure.

There is one final suggestion not made in the brief, or at least not articulated very clearly, and that is that Mr. Weinberger is not an appropriate class representative because he, unlike some of his brethren, was alert enough to sense and eventually detect and bring a lawsuit in connection with the proposed merger. And therefore, there is a difference

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between him and some of the other stockholders who were completely taken in or who have since tendered. And I can't represent that counsel suggested that it was antagonistic, but to buy that suggestion would mean that you would never have this sort of an action, because the people who had been taken in and who had voted for it or who tendered would never know that it had happened to them; and therefore, there would be no representative of that kind, because they all would have been taken in.

Now, you might find one who later would wake up or would in some way discover that he had been defrauded, and then he could come in. But if the situation works as it was planned to work, you could never have anybody who could represent all the people who had, in fact, been taken in, who had either voted for it or didn't get around to voting for it but had turned their stock in. I think the difference that is suggested is artificial, that Mr. Weinberger fortunately for the class did not vote, did not tender and did do what is appropriate; that is, he went to counsel, reviewed the situation and had an action started on his behalf.

There is one final kicker in the argument that I should reply to, and that is in an attempt to I

There is a suggestion that perhaps this isn't the appropriate time, because Mr. Weinberger, not five months after the suit was really begun, but shortly after the suit had gotten under way and we had gotten some documents, didn't know enough, that maybe when he gets his act together, he can be certified. The basis of that is that he was closely examined about suits unrelated to this and that at the time he did not have the intimate knowledge.

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apply a far stricter standard for class certification than has ever been applied not only by this Court but by the Federal Courts, that Mr. Weinberger is appropriate as of now, in spite of this long deposition, to be the class representative; and that, therefore, the Court should go forward at this point and certify him as the class representative. Therefore, I would ask the Court to rule affirmatively on the present motion and certify Mr. Weinberger. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well. Thank you very much, Mr. Prickett.

MR. SPARKS: Your Honor, may I just say a few words on behalf of UOP.

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THE COURT: With regard to what,

Mr. Sparks? Let me ask you this: Do you propose to

join in the argument that was just concluded, or is it

something different?

MR. SPARKS: Your Honor, I would like to join in Mr. Halkett's argument, and I would like to make the record clear as to UOP's participation in the briefing, since I believe Mr. Prickett has created an implication here that somehow this was all Signal's doing and not UOP's doing. I would like to respond to one matter which Mr. Prickett raised in his responsive argument, that at least to my knowledge, based on the knowledge of the cases, counsel for plaintiff is incorrect, and I would like to point that out to Your Honor, and that is the limited purpose for which I stand up.

THE COURT: I will permit it, then, if you keep it brief, Mr. Sparks. I don't want to prolong the matter. If it is simply a point of clarification on something you feel Mr. Prickett assumed incorrectly, tell me where you think he assumes it incorrectly.

MR. WARKS: Your Honor, procedurally, UOP participated with Signal in the drafting and preparation of the brief that was submitted to Your Honor, and the

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only reason that we didn't Xerox it and put our name at the bottom of it and instead wrote a letter to the Court was that we didn't think the Court should be burdened with an extra bulky brief that we concurred in entirely.

THE COURT: I was aware of that. I had your letter and a letter from Mr. Balotti indicating --

MR. SPARKS: As far as UOP's participation
-- and I can only speak for UOP -- I considered it more
than a joining in, but it was a wholehearted endorsement of everything that Mr. Halkett and Mr. Payson
signed their name to in that brief and that everything
that Mr. Halkett stated this morning.

THE COURT: I understood that to be your position and also Mr. Balotti's.

MR. BALOTTI: That's correct.

MR. SPARKS: The only other matter I would like to refer to is, in Mr. Prickett's statement just a moment ago he suggests that this is somehow a deception case, and I just want to point out to the Court in the class action count in the complaint there is absolutely no allegation with respect to deception or nondisclosure, and from UOP's point of view, we think that is most significant in determining the

questions before Your Honor this morning. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Sparks. I don't think that calls for any reply from you, Mr. Prickett.

MR. PRICKETT: No, sir.

THE COURT: I appreciate Mr. Sparks wanting to clarify his position. Mr. Balotti, anything you want to say?

MR. BALOTTI: No, sir.

THE COURT: All right, gentlemen. Thank you very much for your argument and your interesting presentation, and I will again make my usual promise to get to it as soon as I can, weather permitting. And again, I offer my apologies for not being able to have the last matter tidied up and taken care of before we got to this one.

I thank you very much, Mr. Halkett:
always good to have you here. I will be in touch with
you as soon as I can.

(Court adjourned at 12:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LORRAINE B. MARINO, Official Reporter for the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 49 contain a true and correct transcription of the proceedings as stenographically reported by me at the hearing in the above stated cause, before the Vice Chancellor of the State of Delaware, on the date therein indicated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand at Wilmington, this day of July, 1979.

Official Reporter for the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware