MCCAUGHAN JAMES P

Form 4

October 26, 2004

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * MCCAUGHAN JAMES P

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Issuer

Symbol

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

711 HIGH STREET 10/22/2004 below) below) President - Global Asset Mgmt.

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

DES MOINES, IA 50392

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I) (Instr. 4)

Reported

Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) Code V Amount (D) Price

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

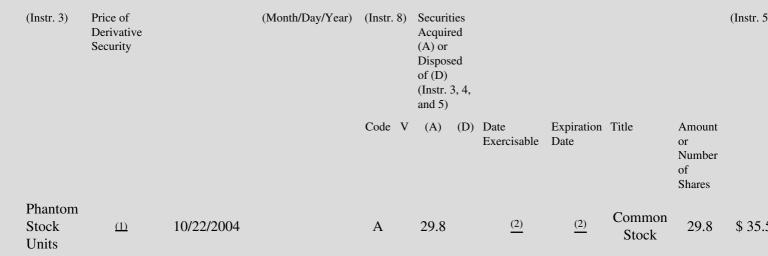
5. Number Transactionof Code Derivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8. Price Underlying Securities Derivat (Instr. 3 and 4)

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

MCCAUGHAN JAMES P 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392

President - Global Asset Mgmt.

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 10/26/2004

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time (2) into another investment alternative under the plan. Interests under the plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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