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FOR THE MORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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MORTHERY DISTRICT OF INDIANA U.S. DISTRICT COURT

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NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIA. A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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CIAIR NO H86-803 PINC

YEKCO' INC'

HAMMOND DIVISION

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complaint were filed in this matter. Thereafter, the third-party

On August 24, 1987 the Third-Party Complaint and Counter-

as to the Third-Party Defendants, 1080 Broadway, Inc. and Donald

55(b)(2). This Order is issued as a result of the hearing on

and Donald Watts. On Friday, June 24, 1988, at 1:30 A.M. this

Judgment as to the Third-Party Defendants, 1980 Broadway, Inc.

This matter is before the Court on a motion for Default

ORDER

Contt conducted a hearing on damages pursuant to Fed.

81,056566

Counter-Defendant

Third-Party Defendancs

Defendent and Third-Party

THE COMBINED FUND, INC.

I/K/a URBAN FUND OF ILLINOIS

VEKGO' INC'

DONALD WATTS

Plaintiff

Plaintiff

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1080 BROADWAY,

The Court hereby GRANTS the Motion for Default Judgment

The amounts of damages are set forth below.

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BICHARD E TIMMONT, CLERK U.A. DISTRICT COURT PASKINEN CASHICT OF BRITAINA

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defendant, Donald Watts, was served with a Summons and Complaint on October 1, 1987 and the third-party defendant, 1080 Broadway, Inc., was also served on September 2, 1987. When both parties failed to appear or otherwise answer in the action, a Clerk's entry of default was entered on March 2, 1988. On March 28, 1988 an Affidavit for Default Judgment was filed. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2) this matter was set down for hearing on damages. Notice was given to all parties and the third-party defendants failed to appear at the hearing. Evidence was heard and the following facts were established: Askco entered into a real estate lease agreement with the Combined Fund. The terms of the lease provided for a twenty (20) year lease with \$3500.00 a month payments for twenty (20) years. The Urban Fund presented Exhibit 3, a letter dated September 23, 1933 to Mr. E. Patrick Jones, President, regarding the transfer of control of the restaurant at 1080 Broadway, Gary, Indiana from the Urben Fund to Donald Watts. In addition to Donald Watts assuming the restaurant operation at 1080 Broadway, Gary, Indiana, the Urban Fund produced Exhibits 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, evidencing Donald Watts' indebtedness to the Urban Fund, including an agreement to assume and purchase assets signed by Donald Watts on September 23, 1983, two (2) promissory notes, a guarantee agreement, and a security agreement signed by Donald Watts, President of 1080 Broadway, Inc.

In February of 1988 the tenant, 1080 Broadway, Gary, operating Popeye's Famous Fried Chicken Restaurant at that location, moved out of the premises. The amount of rentals due from

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the period of August, 1983 to February, 1988 was a total of \$192,500.00. The third-party defendants had made payments of \$156,000.00, thus leaving a deficiency of \$36,500.00, pursuant to the lease agreement. Additionally, the lessee agreed to pay taxes. For the period of August, 1983 through February, 1988, the amount of taxes due on the property according to the Lake County Treasurer's Office was \$56,183,16. Since the lease period was a twenty year term, for the time period remaining, March, 1988 through August, 2003, \$647,500.00 was due in rentals. However, since the lease in this case runs for an additional fifteen (15) years into the future, "an award of damages calculated by reference to the entire term of the lease would render a figure that would be so arbitrary and speculative as to be wholly inequitable." Rouche v. Circle Theatre, 374 N.E.2d 546, 552 (Ind. App. 1978). In light of this law and the fact that the landlord has a duty to mitigate damages in the event of a breach, the Court finds that damages calculated on the basis of a term extending three (3) years, instead of fifteen (15) would be reasonable under the circumstances. Therefore, unvaid and outstanding rentals for the period March, 1988 through august of 1991, include the sum of \$54,000.00. Further, the lease provision provided for reasonable attorney fees to pursue rentals in an amount of fifteen percent (15%) of the outstanding balance, which would amount to \$22,002.47.

As to the promissory notes signed by Donald Watts as President of 1080 Broadway, Inc., there were two (2) notes, one for a loan of \$170,000.00 and the second for a loan of

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\$16,900.00. Additionally, a guarantee agreement was signed by Donald Watts in addition to an agreement for a loan and a security agreement (Exhibits 4 through 8). The total amount due on the loans, including principal and interest to the date of the hearing was \$248,156.30. As to attorney fees, Attorney Reising testified that he expended 52.4 hours on the case and that a reasonable charge per hour is \$80.00, and that in his experience a default judgment takes twice as long to collect than to litigate, and therefore he will have to expend 104 hours to effect collection in this matter and estimates that his attorney fees amount to \$12,576.00.

The Court hereby GRANTS the Motion for Default Judgment against Donald Watts and 1080 Broadway. Inc. and finds that the third-party defendants are jointly and severally liable to the third-party plaintiff on the note and security agreement sued upon in the amount of \$248,156.30, plus \$12,576.00 in attorney fees; and, on the indemnity and guarantee of the lease in the sum of \$146,683.16, plus \$22,002.47 in attorney fees; together with interest at the rate of 12% from August 24, 1987.

ENTER: 9/13/88

RUDY LOZANO, Judge, S. Districk Court

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PAUL A. BRADY 1115 S. PHYMOUTH CT #490

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