

STATE OF NEW YORK
STATE TAX COMMISSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12227

July 31, 1981

Robert Snyder
20 Rock Hill Ln.
Scarsdale, NY

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Please take notice of the Decision of the State Tax Commission enclosed herewith.

You have now exhausted your right of review at the administrative level. Pursuant to section(s) 690 of the Tax Law, any proceeding in court to review an adverse decision by the State Tax Commission can only be instituted under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Laws and Rules, and must be commenced in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Albany County, within 4 months from the date of this notice.

Inquiries concerning the computation of tax due or refund allowed in accordance with this decision may be addressed to:

NYS Dept. Taxation and Finance
Deputy Commissioner and Counsel
Albany, New York 12227
Phone # (518) 457-6240

Very truly yours,

STATE TAX COMMISSION

cc: Petitioner's Representative
Allan J. Parker
Shea & Gould
330 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10017
Taxing Bureau's Representative

STATE OF NEW YORK

STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition	:	
of	:	
ROBERT SNYDER	:	DECISION
for Redetermination of a Deficiency or for	:	
Refund of Personal Income Tax under Article 22	:	
of the Tax Law for the Year 1973.	:	

In the Matter of the Petition	:	
of	:	
PHILIP HIXON	:	
for Redetermination of a Deficiency or for	:	
Refund of Personal Income Tax under Article 22	:	
of the Tax Law for the Year 1973.	:	

Petitioners, Robert Snyder, 22 Stanmore Court, Potomac, Maryland and Philip Hixon, c/o Snyder-Hixon Associates, 4827 Rugby Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, have individually filed the petitions herein for redetermination of a deficiency or for refund of personal income tax under Article 22 of the Tax Law for the year 1973 (File Nos. 15715 and 15716, respectively).

A formal hearing was held before Robert A. Couze, Hearing Officer, at the offices of the State Tax Commission, Two World Trade Center, New York, New York, on November 20, 1980 at 10:15 A.M. Petitioners Robert Snyder and Philip Hixon appeared by Shea & Gould, Esqs. (Alan J. Parker, Esq., of counsel). The Audit Division appeared by Ralph J. Vecchio, Esq., (William Fox, Esq., of counsel).

ISSUE

Whether petitioners, Robert Snyder and Philip Hixon, were persons required to collect, truthfully account for and pay over withholding taxes due from Palmer Plastics, Inc. for the year 1973.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On April 29, 1976 the Audit Division issued a Notice of Deficiency and Statement of Deficiency against each petitioner, in the amount of \$8,048.35 for the tax year 1973. The statements asserted that both petitioners were persons required to collect, truthfully account for and pay over withholding taxes due from Palmer Plastics, Inc. for the year 1973 pursuant to the provisions of subsections (g) and (n) of section 685 New York Tax Law.

2. The aforementioned statements of deficiency asserted the liability for the withholding period in sums as follows:

<u>WITHHOLDING TAX PERIODS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
April 1 to April 15, 1973	\$1,404.51
May 1 to August 8, 1973	6,643.84
TOTAL DUE	\$8,048.35

3. The corporate employer was Palmer Plastics, Inc., ("Palmer") the address of which was 1072 Avenue D, Brooklyn, New York.

4. Palmer was engaged in the business of manufacturing plastic toys.

5. The controlling interest in Palmer was owned by the Estate of Irving Wildstein. Stephen Wildstein was the co-executor and principal beneficiary of this estate.

6. The estate wished to sell this business.

7. Petitioners, Robert Snyder and Philip Hixon, were the partners of Snyder-Hixon Associates, which was a venture capital partnership.

8. Palmer was not doing well financially and Stephen Wildstein asked petitioners Snyder and Hixon about raising money for the company. Snyder and Hixon agreed that they would attempt to raise some money for the company if they could obtain an option to purchase Palmer's stock.

9. One Pasquale Iammatteo herein, was a factory manager with a toy company.

10. Sometime in the spring of 1972, Iammatteo was contacted by petitioners Snyder and Hixon and asked if he was interested in an opportunity to participate in the purchase of an existing plastic toy company i.e. Palmer.

11. Iammatteo expressed an interest and shortly thereafter, he along with Snyder-Hixon Associates, Stephen Wildstein and one Edward Nassberg formed Winneco, Inc., ("Winneco") a Delaware corporation (initially called Palmer Industries, Inc.) to effectuate the purchase of Palmer.

12. Iammatteo, Snyder-Hixon Associates, Wildstein and Nassberg entered into an agreement dated June 20, 1972, whereby they would purchase stock in Winneco.

13. Winneco's formation capital was as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NO. SHARES</u>	<u>PURCHASE PRICE</u>
Wildstein	333,333	\$ 3,333.33
Nassberg	166,666	\$ 1,666.66
Iammatteo	166,666	\$ 1,666.64
Snyder-Hixon Associates	333,333	\$25,000.00

14. Winneco was a shell, a holding company set up principally to operate and manage Palmer Plastics, Inc. Under the terms of an agreement, Winneco was to act as consultant to Palmer and had an option to purchase Palmer's stock if certain conditions were met on or before January 1, 1973. In connection with the Stock Purchase Agreement dated June 20, 1972, it was agreed that Palmer

would retain Winneco as management consultants for the period from the date of the agreement to the closing date. In this connection, it was agreed that Winneco and its officers would have the power to manage and direct the daily operations of Palmer, including hiring and firing of employees, purchase and sale of materials and goods, etc., to be exercised reasonably in Winneco's judgment as to the best interest of the corporations.

15. None of Palmer's stock was ever purchased by or ever transferred to Winneco. Rather, the stock was endorsed in blank and held by Palmer in escrow pursuant to the contract to purchase.

16. Iammatteo's area of responsibility with Winneco and Palmer was manufacturing, purchasing and production and petitioners Snyder and Hixon shared the responsibility for the infusion of capital into Winneco, which could be either loaned or advanced to Palmer. Snyder and Hixon were also responsible for Winneco's and Palmer's budgeting, accounting and forecasting.

17. Because of the failure of Snyder-Hixon Associates to come up with the requisite finances for Palmer the contract that Winneco had to purchase Palmer expired on January 1, 1973; However, it was further extended for one additional month.

18. Neither of the petitioners, herein Snyder nor Hixon owned any stock in Palmer. Likewise, neither of the petitioners herein were officers nor directors of Palmer.

19. Petitioners Snyder and Hixon did not have an office nor a desk at Palmer.

20. Each of petitioners, herein, were given and exercised check writing authority on Palmer's checking account(s). The authority was given by Wildstein and could be revoked at will by him.

21. Petitioners Snyder and Hixon testified that they never signed Palmer's payroll checks nor did they ever sign payroll withholding tax returns. They did not sign any checks during May, 1973.

22. Copies of Palmer checks show that Iammatteo also signed checks.

23. Petitioners Snyder and Hixon testified that they did not have authority to decide what bills were to be paid by Palmer nor did they have authority to decide what checks were to be drawn. Petitioners testified that they only signed Palmer checks that had the prior approval of Wildstein.

24. Palmer's checkbook was kept in a safe and only Francis Cohen, its bookkeeper and Wildstein had access to it. Petitioners maintain that had they asked for the checkbook, both the bookkeeper and/or Wildstein would have refused them.

25. Attorneys for the Wildstein Estate objected to the intermingling of Winneco and Palmer and accordingly it was agreed that all rights to use the name Winneco and all contracts and all beneficial interests of Winneco would be conveyed to Palmer.

26. Snyder-Hixon Associates, in addition to the \$25,000.00 it paid for its Winneco stock, made a further advance of \$25,000.00 to it.

27. The officers of Palmer were Stephen Wildstein, President-Treasurer and Director. Other officers included one Henry Zirin, who was Purchasing Agent, and Wildstein's wife.

28. The officers of Winneco and Palmer were not one and the same. Only Wildstein was an officer of both.

29. Petitioners Snyder and Hixon testified that they never attended Palmer's directors meetings. However, they attended Winneco's board meetings,

wherein Palmer's affairs were discussed for the purpose of ascertaining whether its financial condition could be turned around.

30. On May 2, 1973, there was a meeting of the Board of Directors of Winneco. At that meeting the question was raised of Palmer's unpaid withholding taxes although its bookkeeper, Francis Cohen, had been instructed to make all withholding payments. It was further suggested at this meeting that the stockholders of Winneco forego salaries from Palmer until the latter's withholding taxes were brought up to date. Subsequently, Iammatteo, Nassberg and Wildstein agreed to defer all of their individual salaries in excess of \$30,000.00 per year. Petitioners Snyder and Hixon agreed to defer 100 percent of their salaries.

31. At a subsequent date, petitioners Snyder and Hixon again found that Palmer's withholding taxes still had not been paid. They thereupon withdrew their guarantee of a credit line to Winneco and Palmer.

22. Petitioners testified that they did not have the authority to discharge Palmer's bookkeeper. This is contrary to the powers granted in the Stock Purchase Agreement, herein, dated June 20, 1972. (See: Finding of Fact No. 14 and Petitioner's Exhibit "3".)

33. Effective June 6, 1973, petitioners Snyder and Hixon resigned as directors and officers of Winneco and ceased to have any further relations with Palmer.

34. The option, which Winneco held to acquire an interest in Palmer, was never exercised.

35. Iammatteo devoted full time and petitioners Snyder and Hixon, each, devoted part of a day, once a week, to the operation and management of Palmer.

36. The petitioners herein placed the exclusive responsibility for the failure to collect and pay over Palmer's withholding taxes on Wildstein and Francis Cohen, its bookkeeper.

37. Neither petitioner was not able to locate Francis Cohen for the purpose of giving testimony at the hearing, herein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. That subsection (g) of section 685 of the Tax Law provides in part:

"Any person required to collect, truthfully account for, and pay over the tax imposed by this article who willfully fails to collect such tax or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable to a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over."

B. That subsection (n) of section 685 of the Tax Law provides, in part, that:

"...the term person includes an individual, corporation or partnership or an officer or employee of any corporation (including a dissolved corporation), or a member or employee of any partnership, who as such officer, employee or member is under a duty to perform the act in respect of which the violation occurs."

C. That for the period April 1, 1973 to June 6, 1973, petitioners were actively engaged in the managerial and financial affairs of Palmer. They severed all relations with Palmer on June 6, 1973.

D. That for the period April 1, 1973 to June 6, 1973, petitioners were persons required to collect, truthfully account for, and pay over the income tax for said period.

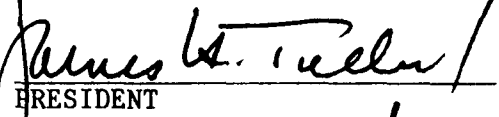
E. That in view of the foregoing, the petitions, herein, are denied and the notices of deficiency are sustained insofar as is consistent with Conclusion

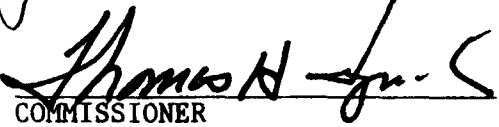
of Law "D", above, i.e. petitioners are only subject to the penalty for the adjusted period ending June 6, 1973.

DATED: Albany, New York

JUL 31 1981

STATE TAX COMMISSION


PRESIDENT


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER

TA 26 (9-79)

STATE OF NEW YORK
State Tax Commission
TAX APPEALS BUREAU
STATE CAMPUS

ALBANY, N. Y. 12227

Robert Snyder
20 Rock Hill Ln.
Scarsdale, NY

8916252



REQUEST FOR BETTER ADDRESS

Dec.

Requested by <i>J. Vedenburg</i>	Unit Tax Appeals Bureau Room 107 - Bldg. #9 State Campus Albany, New York 12227	Date of Request <i>8-18-81</i>
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Please find most recent address of taxpayer described below; return to person named above.

Social Security Number	Date of Recision <i>35 #</i> <i>11-1553988</i>
Name <i>Robert Snyder</i>	
Address <i>20 Rock Hill Lane</i> <i>Scarsdale N.Y.</i>	

Results of search by Files

☐ New address:	
☐ Same as above, no better address	
☒ Other:	<i>0-80 #</i> <i>0-79 #</i> <i>0-78 #</i>

Searched by <i>L. Panetta</i> <i>M. Grey</i>	Section <i>Walter Lindof</i> <i>103</i>	Date of Search <i>8-27-81</i> <i>8-25-81</i>
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PERMANENT RECORDFOR INSERTION IN TAXPAYER'S FOLDER