STATE OF NEW YORK

STATE TAX COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of Hi Fi Shop, Inc.

for Redetermination of a Deficiency or Revision of a Determination or Refund of Sales & Use Tax under Article 28 & 29 of the Tax Law for the Period 6/1/79-2/28/82.

SS.:

State of New York :

County of Albany :

David Parchuck, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an employee of the State Tax Commission, that he is over 18 years of age, and that on the 31st day of December, 1984, he served the within notice of Decision by certified mail upon Hi Fi Shop, Inc., the petitioner in the within proceeding, by enclosing a true copy thereof in a securely sealed postpaid wrapper addressed as follows:

Hi Fi Shop, Inc. c/o J. A. Leo Beaudet, Pres. 88 Parker Ave. & St. Regis Blvd. Massena, NY 13662

and by depositing same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper in a post office under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

That deponent further says that the said addressee is the petitioner herein and that the address set forth on said wrapper is the last known address of the petitioner.

Sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1984.

Tavid Garahurk

Authorized to administer oaths pursuant to Tax Law section 174 AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

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

December 31, 1984

Hi Fi Shop, Inc. c/o J. A. Leo Beaudet, Pres. 88 Parker Ave. & St. Regis Blvd. Massena, NY 13662

Gentlemen:

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) 1138 of the Tax Law, a proceeding in court to review an adverse decision by the State Tax Commission may be instituted only under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law 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 Law Bureau - Litigation Unit Building #9, State Campus Albany, New York 12227 Phone # (518) 457-2070

Very truly yours,

STATE TAX COMMISSION

cc: Taxing Bureau's Representative

STATE OF NEW YORK

STATE TAX COMMISSION

through February 28, 1982.

In the Matter of the Petition : of : HI FI SHOP, INC. : for Revision of a Determination or for Refund : of Sales and Use Taxes under Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law for the Period June 1, 1979 :

Petitioner, Hi Fi Shop, Inc., 88 Parker Avenue and St. Regis Boulevard, Massena, New York 13662, filed a petition for revision of a determination or for refund of sales and use taxes under Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law for the period June 1, 1979 through February 28, 1982 (File No. 40596).

DECISION

A small claims hearing was held before James Hoefer, Hearing Officer, at the offices of the State Tax Commission, 207 Genesee Street, Room 704, Utica, New York, on June 14, 1984 at 10:45 A.M. Petitioner appeared by J.A. Leo Beaudet, President. The Audit Division appeared by John P. Dugan, Esq. (Kevin Cahill, Esq., of counsel).

ISSUE

Whether petitioner is subject to compensating use tax on the rental of certain vehicles and office equipment.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Audit Division, on August 20, 1982, issued a Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due (hereinafter "Notice") to petitioner, Hi Fi Shop, Inc. Said Notice was for the period June 1, 1979 through February 28, 1982 and additional tax due was assessed at \$1,196.16, plus interest of \$214.93, for a total due of \$1,411.09. 2. The aforementioned Notice was based on a field audit of petitioner's books and records. Said audit revealed that petitioner leased from Beaudet Realty certain vehicles and office equipment and that no sales tax was charged by Beaudet Realty on the monthly rental fees. It was also found that Hi Fi Shop, Inc. did not pay any use tax on said monthly rental charges. The Audit Division examined rental payments made by petitioner to Beaudet Realty in detail and determined that taxable rental charges during the audit period amounted to \$17,088.00. Additional tax due of \$1,196.16 was computed by multiplying alleged taxable rental charges of \$17,088.00 by the 7 percent tax rate.

3. J. A. Leo Beaudet was president and owner of Hi Fi Shop, Inc. He was also the owner of Beaudet Realty, a sole proprietorship doing business under the firm name and style of Beaudet Realty.

4. Beaudet Realty was established sometime in June, 1976 for the sole purpose of purchasing equipment and leasing it to Hi Fi Shop, Inc. Mr. Beaudet testified that Beaudet Realty was formed to help alleviate the cash flow problem of Hi Fi Shop, Inc. All equipment purchased by Beaudet Realty was leased exclusively to Hi Fi Shop, Inc. Petitioner leased the vehicles and office equipment from Beaudet Realty pursuant to written leases which were renewed on a year-to-year basis. Monthly lease payments were made by petitioner to Beaudet Realty for the rental of the vehicles and office equipment.

5. Hi Fi Shop, Inc. and Beaudet Realty were separate and distinct entities. Separate books and records were maintained and separate tax returns were filed.

6. Beaudet Realty paid sales tax on the purchase price of the equipment which it leased to petitioner. Petitioner maintains that it should be given credit for the sales tax paid by Beaudet Realty on the purchase of the leased

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equipment since said equipment was purchased by Beaudet Realty exclusively for resale and was, therefore, not subject to tax to Beaudet Realty. The Audit Division maintains that petitioner and Beaudet Realty were separate entities for sales tax purposes and that any refund which might be due Beaudet Realty must be claimed by Beaudet Realty in a claim for refund. During the course of the audit, Mr. Beaudet was advised by the auditor to have Beaudet Realty file a claim for refund for sales tax paid by Beaudet Realty on equipment which it leased to Hi Fi Shop, Inc.

7. Petitioner does not dispute that its rental of the vehicles and equipment constituted a taxable transaction. However, Mr. Beaudet asserts that the Notice dated August 20, 1982 should be cancelled since his erroneous payment of sales tax on the initial purchase of the equipment and vehicles through Beaudet Realty is equal to or slightly greater than the tax due on the monthly rental charges to Hi Fi Shop, Inc.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. That section 1105(a) of the Tax Law imposes a tax upon "[t]he receipts from every retail sale of tangible personal property...". Section 1110(A) of the Tax Law imposes a use tax on the use within this state of any tangible personal property purchased at retail on which no sales tax was paid.

B. That petitioner's lease of certain office equipment and vehicles from Beaudet Realty constituted a retail sale pursuant to Tax Law section 1105(a). Since no sales tax was charged by Beaudet Realty on the rental charges to petitioner, the Audit Division properly assessed a compensating use tax against petitioner for its use of said office equipment and vehicles within New York.

C. That it is immaterial that Beaudet Realty may have erroneously paid sales tax on its purchase of the office equipment and vehicles in question.

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Beaudet Realty is not a party to this proceeding. Any refund to which Beaudet Realty may be entitled must be pursued apart from the instant matter. Petitioner and Beaudet Realty are separate "persons" as that term is defined in section 1101(a) of the Tax Law.

D. That the petition of Hi Fi Shop, Inc. is denied in its entirety; and that the Notice of Determination and Demand for Payment of Sales and Use Taxes Due dated August 20, 1982 is sustained.

DATED: Albany, New York

DEC 31 1984

STATE TAX COMMISSION

PRESIDENT COMMISSIONER W

COMMISSI NER

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RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED-NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL (See Reverse) ù 1 622 3 \$ Postage **Certified Fee** Special Delivery Fee Restricted Delivery Fee Return Receipt Showing to whom and Date Delivered Return Receipt Showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery PS Form 3800, Feb. 1982 \$ **TOTAL Postage and Fees** Postmark or Date

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