## **Document 0808**

808001]
OF ACT-ATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE P
[20808002]
(MANY)
Embedded in the "budget "being concocted by the House-Senate conference committee is something that looks , smells and waddles like a duck . ev-w1112f1 ev-w3029f1 _ e
[20808003]  (ACT-arg)  (RSTR)  (PAT-arg)  (RSTR)
It 's a nuisance tax on mergers ev-w218f2
[20808004]  (MEANS)  (EFF-ug)  (ACT-ug)
Congress has decided to raise \$ 40 million by charging companies \$ 20,000 for the honor of filing the required papers under the Hart-Scott-Rodino law .
[20808006] (CONJ.member)
The Hart-Scott filing is then reviewed and any antitrust concerns usually met .  ev-w2745fl ev-w1964fl _
[20808007] (ACT-arg)
Typically , Hart-Scott is used now to give managers of target firms early news of a bid and a chance to use regulatory review as a delaying tactic .
[20808008]
(ADVS.member) (MAT)
The \$ 20,000 tax would be a small cost in a multibillion-dollar deal , but a serious drag on thousands of small , friendly deals .
[20808009]
One especially dangerous aspect to the new tax would be that the proceeds will be used to increase the budgets of the antitrust division at Justice and the Federal Trade Commission .
[20808011]
(REG)
(ESTR) (EFF-arg) (EDDR-arg) (EDDR
Also as former Reagan antitrust chief Charles Rule has noted this would "establish the precedent that the government may charge parties for the privilege of being sued regardless of whether the government prevails ev-w2081f2 ev-w20
Yet another opportunity for President Bush to respond, "Read my lips .  ev-w2702f1 ev-w2513f1 ev-w2513f1
[20808013]
Line-item veto .

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