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December 19, 2000

Secretary of Labor
Top Hat Plan Exemption
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration
Room N-5644
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Schmitz Press Supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan

Dear Secretary:

Pursuant to Section 2520.104-23 of the Department of Labor's Regulations, this letter will serve as notice that, with respect to the Schmitz Press Supplemental Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"), the undersigned intends to utilize the alternative form of compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of Part 1 of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") provided for in that Regulations Section.

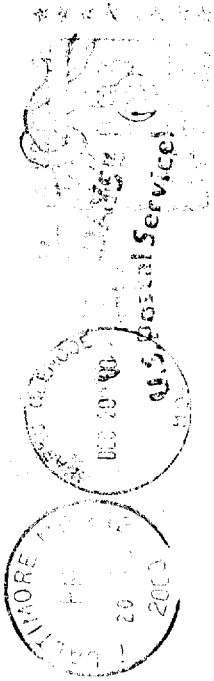
Pursuant to Regulations Section 2520.104-23(b), the following information is provided:

1. Name and Address of Employer: E. John Schmitz & Sons, Inc. (Schmitz Press)
37 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152
2. Employer's Employer Identification Number: 52-0569969
3. The Employer hereby declares that it maintains the Plan primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees.
4. The employer hereby states that it maintains only the Plan primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees, and that it is expected that three (3) employees will participate in the plan.

Pursuant to Regulations Section 2520.104-23(b)(2), the Employer will provide Plan documents, if any, to the Secretary of Labor upon request as required by Section 104(a)(1) of ERISA.

Very truly yours,

Martin J. Blair, Executive Vice President/CFO



37 Loveton Circle • Sparks, MD 21152-9201



SCHMITZ PRESS

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