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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO DIVISION

In re

Case No. 06-90257-A-13G

CLIFFORD A. ROGERS, JR., and
Docket Control No. SPS-1

Debtors.

MEMORANDUM

The creditor, American General Finance, has filed an exparte motion seeking an order confirming that the automatic stay has been "terminated" pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(3)(C). The exparte application will be dismissed without prejudice.

First, the ex parte motion bears the same docket control number as an earlier filed objection to confirmation. This is impermissible. See Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(c). The purpose of a docket control number is to insure that all pleadings and documents filed in connection with a particular motion or objection are associated with that motion or objection. By using a docket control number for more than one motion or objection, this purpose is frustrated and the court or a party in interest is apt to be confused as to what pleadings and documents are relevant.

Second, notice and a hearing is required. Further, the proposed order appears calculated to mislead the court into

believing that a hearing was held on July 24, 2006. This date and time is included in the caption. However, that was the date and time of the hearing on the objection to confirmation that has the same docket control number. There is no good reason for the date and time of the hearing on the objection to confirmation should be on an order regarding the automatic stay.

Third, and preliminarily, it does not appear that the automatic stay has been "terminated" by section 362(c)(3).

Rather, section 362(c)(3) provides that the automatic stay expires on the 30th day after the filing of the petition "with respect to a debt or property securing such debt . . . with respect to the debtor. . . " This language limits only the protection given the debtor and the debtor's property. See In re Johnson, 335 B.R. 805 (Bankr. W.D. Tenn. 2006). Section 362(c)(3) has no impact on the duration of the automatic stay vis a vis property of the estate. See also In re Jones, 339 B.R. 360 (Bankr. E.D.N.C. 2006); In re Paschal, 337 B.R. 274 (Bankr. E.D.N.C. 2006).

It appears, then, that the debtors' interest in American General's collateral is unprotected by the automatic stay but the automatic stay remains viable as to the estate. Of course, the court will revisit this issue when the matter is set for hearing.

A separate order will be entered.

Dated:

By the Court

Michael S. McManus, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court