FREDS INC Form 4 May 15, 2006

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

January 31, Expires: 2005

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **CASEY JOHN A**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

Symbol

FREDS INC [FRED]

(Check all applicable)

(First) (Last)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

03/20/2006

below) below)

Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

Person

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

(City) (State) (Zip)

(Street)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

(Middle)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (T)

(Instr. 4)

(Instr. 8)

Following Reported Transaction(s)

(Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

(A)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any

4. 5. Number Transaction Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr.	8)	(A) or Dispo	osed of 3, 4,				
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Option on Class A Common Stock	\$ 15.37	03/20/2006(1)		<u>J(1)</u>			1,250 (1)	06/09/2010(2)	06/09/2012	Class A Common Stock	1,250

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
Toporting of the remove removed	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
CASEY JOHN A 4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD MEMPHIS, TN 38118			Vice President				

Signatures

Anita Ryan by power of attorney

05/15/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The 2005 option grant dated 6/9/2005 was performance based and cancelled due to non-performance on 3/20/2006.
- (2) The 2005 option grant dated 6/9/2005 had graded vesting of 10% per year for the first 4 grant anniversaries and 60% on the fifth anniversary.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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