

2002-07-NYC-003 DR

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

In re:)	Case No. 02-B02474
)	(Jointly Administered)
KMART CORPORATION, <u>et al.</u> ,)	Chapter 11
)	Chief Judge Susan Picson Sonderby
)	
Debtors.)	

**ORDER UNDER 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT
OF PREPETITION CLAIMS OF CERTAIN CRITICAL TRADE VENDORS**

Upon the motion dated January 22, 2002 (the "Motion"), wherein Kmart Corporation ("Kmart") and certain of its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, debtors and debtors-in-possession in the above-captioned cases (collectively, the "Debtors" or the "Company"), moved this Court for entry of an order, pursuant to section 105(a) authorizing the Debtors to pay Critical Vendor Claims; it appearing to the Court that (i) it has jurisdiction over the matters raised in the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; (ii) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); (iii) the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and their creditors; (iv) proper and adequate notice of the Motion and the hearing thereon has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and (v) upon the record herein, including the exhibits attached to the Notice of Filing of Exhibits as Ordered by the Court at the January 22, 2002 Hearing,

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filed on or about January 25, 2002, after due deliberation thereon, the relief should be granted as set forth below,

1. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, in the reasonable exercise of their business judgment, to pay all, a portion or none of the prepetition claims (the "Critical Vendor Claims") of the following "Critical Vendors": (a) Fleming Companies, Inc.; (b) Handleman Company; (c) vendors who supply egg and dairy and (d) certain newspapers, printers, paper suppliers and other vendors who supply goods and services related to the Debtors' advertising program. The payment of the Critical Vendor Claims shall not exceed those set forth in the Motion upon such terms and in the manner provided in this Order and subject to the provisions of the Debtors' postpetition financing agreement.

2. Any checks used by the Debtors to pay Critical Vendor Claims shall contain a legend substantially in the following form:

By accepting this check, the payee agrees to the terms of that certain Order of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, dated as of _____, in the payor's chapter 11 case (Case No. _____), entitled "Order Under 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) Authorizing the Payment of Prepetition Claims of Certain Critical Trade Vendors," (including, if applicable, any Trade Agreement entered into pursuant to that Order) and submits to the jurisdiction of that Court for enforcement thereof.

3. The Debtors shall undertake appropriate efforts to cause Critical Vendors to enter into an agreement with the Debtors as provided herein as a condition

of payment of their Critical Vendor Claims, which agreement shall include the following terms:

- (a) The amount of such Critical Vendor's estimated Critical Vendor Claims, accounting for any setoffs, other credits and discounts thereto, shall be as mutually determined in good faith by the Critical Vendor and the Debtors (but such amount shall be used only for the purposes of determining such Critical Vendor's claim under this Order and shall not be deemed a claim allowed by the Court and the rights of all interested persons to object to such claim shall be fully preserved until further order of this Court);
- (b) The Customary Trade Terms between such Critical Vendor and the Debtors, or such other terms as the Critical Vendors and the Debtors may agree;
- (c) The Critical Vendor's agreement to provide goods and services to the Debtors based upon Customary Trade Terms or on such other favorable terms as the Debtors and the Critical Vendor may otherwise agree, for a period at least two (2) years from the Petition Date, and the Debtors' agreement to pay in accordance with such terms;
- (d) The Critical Vendor's agreement not to file or otherwise assert against any or all of the Debtors, their estates or any other person or entity or any of their respective assets or property (real or personal) any lien (a "Lien"), regardless of the statute or other legal authority upon which such Lien is asserted, related in any way to any remaining prepetition amounts allegedly owed to the Critical Vendor by the Debtors arising from agreements or other arrangements entered into prior to the Petition Date, and, to the extent the Critical Vendor has already obtained or otherwise asserted such a Lien, the Critical Vendor shall take whatever actions are necessary to remove such Lien;
- (e) The Critical Vendor's acknowledgment that it has reviewed the terms and provisions of this Order and consents to be bound hereby; and
- (f) The Critical Vendor's agreement that it will not separately seek payment for reclamation claims outside the terms of this Order unless the Critical Vendor's participation in the program to pay Critical Vendor Claims pursuant to this Order is terminated; provided, however, that such reclamation claims

shall, if thereafter raised by the Critical Vendor as permitted by this Order, be treated as though raised on the date of this Order.

An agreement executed by and between the Debtors and a Critical Vendor as set forth in this paragraph shall be referred to as a "Trade Agreement." This order is intended to authorize, but shall not require, the Debtors to enter into Trade Agreements, it being the express intention of this Court that the Debtors shall enter into Trade Agreements only when the Debtors determine, in the exercise of their reasonable business judgment, that it is appropriate to do so.

4. The Debtors are authorized, in their discretion to make payments on account of Critical Vendor Claims in the absence of a Trade Agreement after the Debtors have undertaken diligent efforts to cause the Critical Vendor holding such Critical Vendor Claim to execute a Trade Agreement and if the Debtors determine, in their business judgment, that failure to pay the Critical Vendor Claim is likely to result in irreparable harm to the Debtors' business operations.

5. If a Critical Vendor refuses to supply goods and/or services to the Debtors on Customary Trade Terms following receipt of payment on its Critical Vendor Claim, or fails to comply with any Trade Agreement entered into between such Critical Vendor and the Debtors, then the Debtors may, in their discretion and without further order of the Court, (a) declare that any Trade Agreement between the Debtors and such Critical Vendor is terminated (if applicable), and (b) declare that

provisional payments made to Critical Vendors on account of Critical Vendor Claims be deemed to have been in payment of then-outstanding post-petition claims of such vendors without further order of the Court or action by any person or entity, and, to the extent that payments on account of such Critical Vendor Claims exceed the postpetition claims of such vendors then outstanding without giving effect to any rights of setoff, claims, provision for payment of reclamation or trust fund claims, or otherwise. In the event a Trade Agreement is terminated or a Critical Vendor refuses to supply goods and/or services to the Debtors on Customary Trade Terms following receipt of payment on its Critical Vendor Claim, it is the explicit intention of this Court to return the parties to their position immediately prior to the entry of the order approving this Motion with respect to all prepetition claims.

6. The Debtors may, in their sole discretion, reinstate a Trade Agreement if:

(a) Such determination is subsequently reversed by the Court, after notice and a hearing following a motion by the Critical Vendor, for good cause shown that the determination was materially incorrect;

(b) The underlying default under the Trade Agreement was fully cured by the Critical Vendor not later than five (5) business days following the Debtors' notification to the Critical Vendor that a default had occurred; or

(c) The Debtors, in their discretion, reach a favorable alternative agreement with the Critical Vendor.

7. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit, or in any way affect, the Debtors' ability to dispute any Critical Vendor Claim.
8. Nothing contained in this order shall be deemed to constitute an assumption or rejection of any executory contract or agreement between the Debtors and a Critical Vendor or to require the Debtors to make any of the payments authorized herein.
9. Notwithstanding the relief granted herein and any actions taken hereunder, nothing contained herein shall create, nor is it intended to create, any rights in favor of, or enhance the status of any claim held by, any person.
10. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to construe and enforce this Order.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois
January 15, 2002



Chief Judge Susan Pierson Sonderby
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE