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Press release For immediate release

#### THE JEAN COUTU GROUP - THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2011 RESULTS

Operating income before amortization ("OIBA") amounted to \$76.1 million, an increase of 6.4% compared with the third quarter of fiscal year 2010.

**Longueuil**, **Québec**, **January 7**, **2011** - The Jean Coutu Group (PJC) Inc. (the "Company" or the "Jean Coutu Group") reported its financial results today for the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 ended November 27, 2010.

## **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**(Unaudited, in millions of Canadian dollars, except per share amounts)

			39 weeks	39 weeks
	Q3-2011	Q3-2010	2011	2010
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenues	677.3	678.1	1,942.2	1,906.1
Operating income before amortization ("OIBA")	76.1	71.5	215.5	197.6
Share of loss in Rite Aid Corporation a company subject to significant influence ("Rite Aid")	-	-	-	55.2
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8
Per share	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.30
Earnings before specific items and share				
of loss in Rite Aid	47.2	44.2	133.5	119.8
Per share	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.51

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Net earnings per share amounted to \$0.21 compared with \$0.19 during the third quarter of fiscal year 2010.
- OIBA increased by 6.4% during the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 compared with the same period last year.
- The PJC Jean Coutu pharmacies' network has continued its expansion by opening 16 new stores during the quarter.

#### Financial results

"We are satisfied with the results of the third quarter of fiscal year 2011. Net earnings showed a solid increase in spite of a slight decrease of revenues compared to the same period last year when over-the-counter medication sales recorded a significant rise attributed to the concern of consumers confronted with the A (H1N1) flu outbreak. By picking up the pace of our expansion projects and implementing our business plan, we achieved the objectives we had set," said François J. Coutu, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Moreover we believe that the impact on consolidated results of the Company of the measures aiming at reducing the prices of generic drugs should be counterbalanced in the short term by the normal growth of the Company's operations."

#### Revenues

Revenues consist of sales and other revenues derived from franchising activities. Merchandise sales to PJC franchisees through our distribution centres account for most of our sales.

Revenues amounted to \$677.3 million during the third quarter ended November 27, 2010 compared with \$678.1 million during the third quarter ended November 28, 2009, a decrease of 0.1%. The consumers' cautiousness in view of the A(H1N1) flu had contributed to the increase of the over-the-counter drug sales during the third quarter of the previous fiscal year. For the 39-week period of fiscal year 2011, revenues amounted to \$1,942.2 million compared with \$1,906.1 million during the 39-week period of the previous fiscal year, an increase of 1.9%. This increase is attributable to overall market growth and the expansion of the Jean Coutu Group network of franchised stores, even with deflationary impact on revenues caused by the introduction of the generic version of large volume drugs during this period.

#### **OIBA**

OIBA increased by \$4.6 million to \$76.1 million for the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 compared with \$71.5 million for the third quarter of fiscal year 2010. The increase is mostly attributable to a strong operational performance in the franchising activities and of the subsidiary Pro Doc Ltd. Gross sales of Pro Doc products, net of intercompany's eliminations, amounted to \$42.0 million in the third quarter ended November 27, 2010 compared with \$26.8 million in the same period of fiscal year 2010. OIBA as a percentage of revenues ended the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 at 11.2% compared with 10.5% for the third quarter of the previous fiscal year.

For the year to date period of fiscal year 2011, OIBA increased by \$17.9 million to \$215.5 million compared with \$197.6 million during the year to date period of fiscal year 2010. OIBA as a percentage of revenues ended the 39-week period of fiscal year 2011 at 11.1% compared with 10.4% for the same prior year period.

#### Share of loss in Rite Aid, a company subject to significant influence

No share of loss in Rite Aid was accounted in the Company's earnings during the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 as well as during the third quarter of the previous fiscal year.

During the fiscal year ended February 27, 2010, the Company's share of loss in Rite Aid exceeded the carrying value of its investment. As required by Canadian GAAP, the Company reduced the carrying value of its investment down to zero and ceased recording its share of loss in Rite Aid exceeding the carrying value of its investment, since the Company has not guaranteed Rite Aid's obligations and is not committed to provide it with further financial support. For the third quarter of fiscal year 2011, the Company's unrecognized share of loss in Rite Aid amounted to \$25.2 million.

As at November 27, 2010, the Company's total unrecognized share of loss in Rite Aid amounted to \$189.1 million and the market value of equity interest in Rite Aid was US\$236.9 million.

#### **Net earnings**

Net earnings amounted to \$48.0 million (\$0.21 per share) during the third quarter ended November 27, 2010 compared with \$44.6 million (\$0.19 per share) during the third quarter ended November 28, 2009. Net earnings amounted to \$133.8 million (\$0.57 per share) for the 39-week period of fiscal year 2011 compared with \$69.8 million (\$0.30 per share) for the 39-week period of fiscal year 2010.

Earnings before specific items and share of loss in Rite Aid amounted to \$47.2 million (\$0.21 per share) during the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 compared with \$44.2 million (\$0.19 per share) during the third quarter of fiscal

year 2010, an increase of 6.8%. Earnings before specific items and share of loss in Rite Aid amounted to \$133.5 million (\$0.57 per share) for the year to date period of fiscal year 2011 compared with \$119.8 million (\$0.51 per share) for the year to date period of fiscal year 2010.

#### Information on the Jean Coutu Group network of franchised stores

The Company carries on the franchising activity under the banners of PJC Jean Coutu, PJC Clinique, PJC Jean Coutu Santé and PJC Jean Coutu Santé Beauté, operates two distribution centres and coordinates several other services for the benefit of its franchisees.

On a same-store basis, PJC network retail sales grew 0.1%, pharmacy sales gained 0.7% and front-end sales decreased by 1.7% in the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 compared with the third quarter of the previous fiscal year. During the third quarter ended November 27, 2010, sales of non-prescription drugs, which represented 9.2% of total retail sales, decreased by 2.0%, whereas these sales had increased by 16.0% during the third quarter of the previous fiscal year. The consumers' cautiousness in view of the A (H1N1) flu had contributed to the increase of the over-the-counter drug sales during the third quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Due to the introduction of the generic version of large volume drugs during the last 12 months, generic drugs reached 55.0% of drugs' prescriptions during the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 compared with 51.3% during the same period of the previous fiscal year. The increase in the number of generic drugs' prescriptions with lower selling prices had a deflationary impact on the pharmacy's retail sales. The introduction of new generic drugs reduced pharmacy's retail sales growth by 3.5% during the third quarter.

Network performance (1)	Q3-2011	Q3-2010	39 weeks 2011	39 weeks 2010
Retail sales (unaudited, in millions of dollars)	\$945.5	\$923.2	\$2,790.1	\$2,685.9
Retail sales growth (in %)				
Total stores Total Pharmacy Front-end	2.4% 2.7% 1.3%	8.6% 8.8% 8.9%	3.9% 4.1% 2.8%	7.4% 8.9% 5.4%
Same store Total Pharmacy Front-end	0.1% 0.7% -1.7%	6.3% 6.5% 6.6%	1.6% 2.2% -0.2%	4.7% 6.0% 3.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Franchised outlets' retail sales are not included in the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements

#### PJC network of franchised stores development

In the third quarter of fiscal year 2011, there were 16 store openings including the relocation of 5 stores in the PJC network of franchised stores. In addition, 6 stores were significantly renovated or expanded.

#### Capital-stock

On April 29, 2010, the Company announced its intention to purchase for cancellation, if it is considered advisable, up to 11,110,000 of its outstanding Class A subordinate voting shares, representing approximately 10% of the current public float of such shares, over a 12-month period ending no later than May 3, 2011. The shares were or will be purchased through the facilities of the Toronto Stock Exchange and in accordance with its requirements.

For the 13-week period ended November 27, 2010, the Company purchased 2,607,700 Class A subordinate voting shares at an average price of \$9.31 per share for a total consideration of \$24.3 million including related costs. An amount of \$10.3 million representing the excess of the purchase price over the carrying value of the purchased shares was included in deficit.

For the 39-week period ended November 27, 2010, the Company purchased 5,197,700 Class A subordinate voting shares at an average price of \$9.09 per share for a total consideration of \$47.3 million including related costs. An amount of \$19.3 million representing the excess of the purchase price over the carrying value of the

purchased shares was included in deficit. The shares purchased during the 39-week period ended November 27, 2010 were cancelled.

#### Dividend

The Board of the Jean Coutu Group declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.055 per share. This dividend will be payable on February 4, 2011, to all holders of Class A subordinate voting shares and holders of Class B shares listed in the Company's shareholder ledger as of January 21, 2011.

#### **Non-GAAP financial measures**

This press release contains certain financial measures that are not defined by the Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). These measures have been reconciled with performance measures defined by Canadian GAAP in the related section of this press release.

#### Strategies and outlook

With its operations and financial flexibility, the Company is very well positioned to capitalize on the growth in the drugstore retail industry. Demographic trends are expected to contribute to growth in the consumption of prescription drugs and to the increased use of pharmaceuticals as the primary intervention in individual healthcare. Management believes that these trends will continue and that the Company will maintain its growth in revenues through differentiation and quality of offering and service levels to its network of franchised stores, with a focus on sales growth, its real estate program and operating efficiency. The growth in the number of generic drugs' prescriptions will however have a deflationary impact on retail sales in the pharmacy section but the contribution of Pro Doc will have a positive impact on the consolidated margins.

The date of the first step in the implementation of the price reductions of generic drugs announced November 5, 2010 by the "Conseil du médicament du Québec" was set for December 17, 2010. Additional price reductions will be implemented until April 2012, in order to ensure that generic drug prices are not higher than any selling prices granted by the insurance programs of other provinces. Also, the 5% rebate offered by generic drugs manufacturers to distributors and representing the profit margin of the distributors has been abolished since December 17, 2010. Maximum administration fees of 6% are therefore added to the price of generic drugs by wholesalers since that date. Finally, a draft regulation was published in the "Gazette officielle du Québec" on December 22, 2010 to amend the maximum professional allowances authorized to owner pharmacists. Therefore, as of April 1, 2011, that percentage will be reduced from the previous 20% to 16.5% and, as of April 1, 2012, from 16.5% to 15%. The consolidated results of the Company will be affected by these measures but we believe that the impact will be offset in the short term by the normal growth of the Company's operations.

#### Conference call

Financial analysts and investors are invited to attend the third quarter of fiscal year 2011 results conference call to be held on January 7, 2011, at 9:00 AM (ET). The call-in number is 514-861-2255 or toll free at 1 866-696-5910 – access code 1366280 followed by pound sign (#). Media and other interested individuals are invited to listen to the live or deferred broadcast on The Jean Coutu Group corporate website at. A full replay will also be available by dialling 514-861-2272 or toll free at 1 800-408-3053 until February 6, 2011. The access code is 3825216, followed by pound sign (#).

Supporting documentation (Management's discussion and analysis and investor presentation) is available at <a href="http:///">www.jeancoutu.com</a> <a href="http:///">http:///</a> using the investors' link. Readers may also access additional information and filings related to the Company using the following link to the <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a> website.

#### About The Jean Coutu Group

The Jean Coutu Group is one of the most trusted names in Canadian pharmacy retailing. The Company operates a network of 389 franchised stores located in the provinces of Québec, New Brunswick and Ontario under the banners of PJC Jean Coutu, PJC Clinique, PJC Santé and PJC Santé Beauté, and employs over 17,000 people. Furthermore, as of December 2007, the Jean Coutu Group owns Pro Doc Ltd ("Pro Doc"), a Québec-based subsidiary and manufacturer of generic drugs. The Company also holds a significant interest in Rite Aid Corporation ("Rite Aid") a national chain of drugstores in the United States with over 4,700 drugstores in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, and which are based on the Company's current expectations, estimates, projections and assumptions made by the Jean Coutu Group in light of its experience and its perception of historical trends. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about the Company's strategy for growth, costs, operating or financial results, are forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical facts included in this MD&A, including statements regarding the prospects of the Company's industry and the Company's prospects, plans, financial position and business strategy may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Canadian securities legislation and regulations. Some of the forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may", "will", "expect", "intend", "estimate", "project", "could", "anticipate", "plan", "foresee", "believe" or "continue", the negatives of these terms, the variations of them or the use of other similar terms. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to have been correct. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. These statements do not reflect the potential impact of any non-recurring items or of any mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, asset write-downs or other transactions or charges that may be announced or that may occur after the date hereof. While the list below of cautionary statements is not exhaustive, some important factors that could affect our future operating results, financial position and cash flows and could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in these forward-looking statements, namely changes in the legislation or the regulatory environment as it relates to the sale of prescription drugs and the pharmacy exercise, the success of the Company's business model, changes in laws and regulations, or in their interpretations, changes to tax regulations and accounting pronouncements, the cyclical and seasonal variations in the industry in which we operate, the intensity of competitive activity in the industry in which we operate, the supplier and brand reputations, our equity interest in Rite Aid Corporation ("Rite Aid"), our ability to attract and retain pharmacists, labour disruptions, including possibly strikes and labour protests, the accuracy of management's assumptions and other factors that are beyond our control.

These and other factors could cause our actual performance and financial results in future periods to differ materially from any estimates or projections of future performance or results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Investors and others are cautioned that undue reliance should not be placed on any forward-looking statements. For more information on the risks, uncertainties and assumptions that would cause the Company's actual results to differ from current expectations, please also refer to the Company's public filings available at www.sedar.com and www.jeancoutu.com. In particular, further details and descriptions of these and other factors are disclosed in the Company's Annual Information Form under "Risk Factors" and in the "Risks and uncertainties" section of the MD&A for the fiscal year ended February 27, 2010. We expressly disclaim any obligation or intention to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or any other reason, unless required by the applicable securities laws.

Source: The Jean Coutu Group (PJC) Inc.

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Consolidated statements of earnings	13 weeks		39 weeks		
For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	
(unaudited, in millions of Canadian dollars, unless otherwise noted)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Sales	614.7	616.1	1,757.3	1,724.7	
Other revenues	62.6	62.0	1,737.3	181.4	
Other revenues	677.3	678.1	1,942.2	1,906.1	
Operating expenses	077.5	070.1	1,942.2	1,300.1	
Cost of goods sold	545.4	554.6	1,566.4	1,555.0	
General and operating expenses	59.6	55.2	1,300.4	1,333.0	
Amortization of property and equipment	4.3	4.6	12.7	13.1	
7 inoruzation of property and equipment	609.3	614.4	1,750.2	1,730.8	
Operating income	68.0	63.7	192.0	175.3	
Financing expenses (revenues)	(0.3)	(0.4)	0.8	(4.5)	
Earnings before the following items	68.3	64.1	191.2	179.8	
Share of loss in Rite Aid, a company subject to			-		
significant influence	-	-	-	55.2	
Income taxes	20.3	19.5	57.4	54.8	
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8	
Basic and diluted earnings per share,					
in dollars	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.30	
Consolidated statements of comprehensive					
income	13 weeks		39 weeks		
For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and					
November 28, 2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	
(unaudited, in millions of Canadian dollars)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8	
Other comprehensive income	+0.∪	44.0	133.0	09.0	
Foreign currency translation adjustments	_	_	_	(6.7)	
		_	_	10.77	

# THE JEAN COUTU GROUP (PJC) INC. Consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity

shareholders' equity	13 weeks		39 weeks	
For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
(unaudited, in millions of Canadian dollars)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capital stock, beginning of period	636.9	650.2	650.8	648.1
Redemption of stock	(14.0)	-	(28.0)	-
Options exercised	-	0.2	0.1	2.3
Capital stock, end of period	622.9	650.4	622.9	650.4
Contributed surplus, beginning of period	33.1	32.3	32.7	28.4
Stock-based compensation cost	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6
Stock-based compensation in Rite Aid, a company subject to significant influence	_	_	_	3.5
Contributed surplus, end of period	33.3	32.5	33.3	32.5
Deficit, beginning of period  Net earnings  Dividends	(203.0) 48.0 (12.9)	(320.2) 44.6 (10.6)	(254.0) 133.8 (38.7)	(324.1) 69.8 (31.9)
Excess of purchase price over carrying value of Class A subordinate voting shares acquired	(10.3)	- -	(19.3)	-
Deficit, end of period	(178.2)	(286.2)	(178.2)	(286.2)
Accumulated other comprehensive income, beginning of period Foreign currency translation adjustments	80.1 -	96.5 -	80.1 -	103.2 (6.7)
Accumulated other comprehensive income, end of period	80.1	96.5	80.1	96.5
Total shareholders' equity	558.1	493.2	558.1	493.2

Consolidated balance sheets	As at	As at
	November 27, 2010	February 27, 2010
(in millions of Canadian dollars)	\$	\$
	(unaudited)	(audited)
Assets		
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	218.8	194.1
Inventories	177.4	163.8
Prepaid expenses and others	8.8	8.8
	405.0	366.7
Investments	63.6	61.0
Property and equipment	414.7	394.6
Goodwill	36.0	36.0
Other long-term assets	159.7	126.6
	1,079.0	984.9
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Bank overdraft	19.7	13.3
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	224.4	195.2
Income taxes payable	27.7	36.1
	271.8	244.6
Long-term debt	219.8	199.9
Other long-term liabilities	29.3	30.8
	520.9	475.3
Shareholders' equity		
Capital stock	622.9	650.8
Contributed surplus	33.3	32.7
Contributed darpide	33.3	02.1
Deficit	(178.2)	(254.0)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	80.1	80.1
·	(98.1)	(173.9)
	558.1	509.6
	1,079.0	984.9

Consolidated statements of cash flows	13 weeks		39 weeks		
For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	
(unaudited, in millions of Canadian dollars)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Operating activities					
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8	
Items not affecting cash					
Amortization	8.1	7.8	23.5	22.3	
Change in fair value of third party asset-backed					
commercial paper and related options of					
repayment	(8.0)	(0.7)	(0.3)	(4.7)	
Share of loss in Rite Aid, a company subject to					
significant influence	-	-	-	55.2	
Future income taxes	1.4	1.6	3.7	9.0	
Other	8.0	0.1	2.2	(1.8)	
	57.5	53.4	162.9	149.8	
Net changes in non-cash asset and liability items	(12.9)	7.5	(23.0)	(5.4)	
Cash flow related to operating activities	44.6	60.9	139.9	144.4	
Investing activities					
Investments	(1.1)	(0.5)	(5.3)	0.2	
Purchase of property and equipment	(11.7)	(10.9)	(35.0)	(35.0)	
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	0.5	1.1	3.0	1.2	
Other long-term assets	(29.8)	(5.4)	(44.3)	(27.2)	
Cash flow related to investing activities	(42.1)	(15.7)	(81.6)	(60.8)	
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Financing activities					
Net change in revolving credit facility, net of fees	24.9	(38.3)	19.8	(53.1)	
Repayment of long-term debt	-	(2.9)	-	(5.4)	
Issuance of capital stock		0.2	0.1	2.3	
Redemption of capital stock	(22.9)	-	(45.9)	-	
Dividends	(12.9)	(10.6)	(38.7)	(31.9)	
Cash flow related to financing activities	(10.9)	(51.6)	(64.7)	(88.1)	
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(8.4)	(6.4)	(6.4)	(4.5)	
Bank overdraft, beginning of period	(11.3)	(19.3)	(13.3)	(21.2)	
Bank overdraft, end of period	(19.7)	(25.7)	(19.7)	(25.7)	

#### Unaudited additional information

For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009

(In millions of Canadian dollars )

#### Non-GAAP measures

Operating income before amortization ("OIBA") is not a measure of performance under Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"); however, management uses this performance measure in assessing the operating and financial performance of its operations. Besides, we believe that OIBA is an additional measure used by investors to evaluate operating performance and capacity of a company to meet its financial obligations.

However, OIBA is not and must not be used as an alternative to net earnings or cash flow generated by operating activities as defined by GAAP. OIBA is not necessarily an indication that cash flow will be sufficient to meet our financial obligations. Furthermore, our definition of OIBA may not be necessarily comparative to a similar measure reported by other companies.

Net earnings, which is a performance measure defined by GAAP, is reconciled hereunder with OIBA.

	13 weeks		39 w	eeks
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8
Financing expenses (revenues)	(0.3)	(0.4)	8.0	(4.5)
Share of loss in Rite Aid	-	-	-	55.2
Income taxes	20.3	19.5	57.4	54.8
Operating income	68.0	63.7	192.0	175.3
Amortization of property and equipment	4.3	4.6	12.7	13.1
Amortization of incentives paid to franchisees (1)	3.8	3.2	10.8	9.2
Operating income before amortization	76.1	71.5	215.5	197.6

<sup>(1)</sup> Amortization of incentives paid to franchisees is applied against other revenues in the consolidated financial statements.

#### Unaudited additional information

For the periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009

(In millions of Canadian dollars except per share amounts)

#### **Non-GAAP measures** (continued)

Earnings (or earnings per share) before specific items and earnings (or earnings per share) before specific items and share of loss in Rite Aid are non-GAAP measures. The Company believes that it is useful for investors to be aware of significant items of an unusual or non-recurring nature that have adversely or positively affected its GAAP measures, and that the above-mentioned non-GAAP measures provide investors with a measure of performance with which to compare its results between periods without regard to these items. The Company's measures excluding certain items have no standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and are not necessarily comparable to similar measures presented by other companies and therefore should not be considered in isolation.

Net earnings and earnings per share are reconciled hereunder to earnings (and earnings per share) before specific items and earnings (and earnings per share) before specific items and share of loss in Rite Aid. All amounts are net of income taxes when applicable.

	13 weeks		39 weeks	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
_	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net earnings	48.0	44.6	133.8	69.8
Unrealized foreign exchange losses (gains) on				
monetary items	-	0.3	-	(0.5)
Change in fair value of third party asset-backed				
commercial paper and related options of repayment	(8.0)	(0.7)	(0.3)	(4.7)
Earnings before specific items	47.2	44.2	133.5	64.6
Share of loss in Rite Aid	-	-	-	55.2
Earnings before specific items and share of loss				
in Rite Aid	47.2	44.2	133.5	119.8
Earnings per share	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.30
Change in fair value of third party asset-backed	-			
commercial paper and related options of repayment	-	-	-	(0.02)
Earnings per share before specific items	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.28
Share of loss in Rite Aid	-	-	-	0.23
Earnings per share before specific items and				
share of loss in Rite Aid	0.21	0.19	0.57	0.51