

November 29, 2001

Dear Shareholders:

I am pleased to report that the previously announced spin-off by Unitrin, Inc. ("Unitrin") of its interest in Curtiss-Wright Corporation ("C-W") became effective today.

Holders of record of Unitrin Common Stock at the close of business on November 12, 2001 will participate in the distribution by Unitrin of all of the Class B Common Stock of C-W held by Unitrin. Each holder of Unitrin Common Stock will receive 0.064948 shares of C-W Class B Common Stock for each share of Unitrin Common Stock held.

No action on your part is necessary to receive your C-W Class B Common Stock. You will not be required either to pay anything for the new shares or to surrender your Unitrin shares. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, Unitrin has received a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that the distribution of the C-W Class B Common Stock is tax free to Unitrin and to you. *You will be provided shortly with information to enable you to compute your tax basis in your Unitrin Common Stock and the C-W Class B Common Stock you receive.* No fractional shares of C-W Class B Common Stock will be issued. If you would otherwise be entitled to a fractional share, you will receive a check for the cash value of the fractional share, which may be taxable to you.

The enclosed information statement describes certain aspects of the distribution and contains important information. If you would like further information, please refer to the filings made by Unitrin or C-W with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Furthermore, if you have any questions regarding the distribution, please contact Mellon Investor Services LLC at (800) 416-3743.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Vie
*Chairman of the Board, President and
Chief Executive Officer*

INFORMATION STATEMENT
of
UNITRIN, INC.
for
Distribution of Shares of Class B Common Stock
of
CURTISS-WRIGHT CORPORATION

This Information Statement is being furnished in connection with the distribution (the "Distribution") by Unitrin, Inc. ("Unitrin") to its shareholders of all the outstanding shares of Class B Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share ("C-W Class B Common Stock"), of Curtiss-Wright Corporation ("C-W") held by Unitrin.

Shares of C-W Class B Common Stock are being distributed to holders of record of the Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share, of Unitrin ("Unitrin Common Stock") as of the close of business on November 12, 2001 (the "Record Date"). Each such holder will receive 0.064948 shares of C-W Class B Common Stock for each share of Unitrin Common Stock registered in its name on the Record Date. Shareholders of Unitrin are not required to pay for shares of C-W Class B Common Stock received in the Distribution. The C-W Class B Common Stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange, Inc. under the symbol "CW.B".

NO SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL OF THE DISTRIBUTION IS REQUIRED OR SOUGHT. UNITRIN IS NOT SOLICITING PROXIES AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND A PROXY TO UNITRIN OR C-W. SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD NOT SEND ANY UNITRIN STOCK CERTIFICATES TO UNITRIN OR C-W.

NONE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED THAT THIS INFORMATION STATEMENT IS ACCURATE OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Shareholders of Unitrin with inquiries related to the Distribution should contact Mellon Investor Services LLC at (800) 416-3743.

The date of this Information Statement is November 29, 2001

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Directors of Unitrin has approved the distribution of all of the shares of C-W Class B Common Stock held by Unitrin to holders of Unitrin Common Stock.

THE DISTRIBUTION

A total of 4,382,400 shares of C-W Class B Common Stock, which represents all the outstanding shares of C-W Class B Common Stock, is being distributed to holders of record of Unitrin Common Stock as of the close of business on the Record Date.

Unitrin shareholders will receive 0.064948 shares of C-W Class B Common Stock for each share of Unitrin Common Stock held as of the Record Date. Such ratio has been computed by dividing the total number of shares of C-W Class B Common Stock which Unitrin is distributing (4,382,400 shares) by the total number of shares of Unitrin Common Stock outstanding as of the Record Date (67,476,001 shares). Unitrin shareholders will not be required to pay for C-W Class B Common Stock received in the Distribution, or to surrender or exchange shares of Unitrin Common Stock, in order to receive the C-W Class B Common Stock. No vote of Unitrin shareholders is required or sought in order to approve the Distribution, and Unitrin shareholders have no appraisal rights in connection with the Distribution.

No certificates representing fractional shares of C-W Class B Common Stock will be issued to Unitrin shareholders as part of the Distribution. In lieu of receiving fractional shares of C-W Class B Common Stock, each holder of Unitrin Common Stock who would otherwise be entitled to receive a fractional share of the C-W Class B Common Stock will receive cash for such fractional interest. The distribution agent for the Distribution will, as soon as is practicable after the date of the Distribution, aggregate all fractional shares and sell them in the open market in an orderly manner, and after completion of such sales, distribute a pro rata portion of the net proceeds from such sales, based upon the gross selling price of all such fractional shares net of all selling expenses, to each shareholder of Unitrin who would otherwise have received a fractional share. The amount of such payment will depend on the prices at which the aggregated fractional shares are sold by the distribution agent in the open market. Checks for such payments in lieu of fractional shares will be mailed to shareholders entitled to receive such payments in a separate mailing to be made after the date hereof.

In order to be entitled to receive C-W Class B Common Stock or proceeds from the sale of fractional shares of C-W Class B Common Stock, Unitrin shareholders must have been shareholders of record as of the close of business on the Record Date.

C-W COMMON STOCK

After the Distribution, C-W will have two classes of publicly traded common stock. C-W's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share ("C-W Common Stock"), currently trades on The New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (the "NYSE") under the symbol "CW". The C-W Class B Common Stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol "CW.B". Based on C-W's last quarterly report filed on Form 10-Q, C-W had outstanding a total of 10,074,400 shares of common stock. Therefore, based on the 4,382,400 shares of C-W Class B Common Stock being distributed, the C-W Class B Common Stock being distributed will constitute approximately 43.5% of all the outstanding common stock of C-W.

A description of the terms of the C-W Class B Common Stock can be found in C-W's Registration Statement on Form 8-A relating to the C-W Class B Common Stock. In addition, a discussion of the Distribution and certain related transactions and other matters (including a description and a copy of the Distribution Agreement between Unitrin and C-W, which contains the agreements of the parties relating to the Distribution) can be found in C-W's proxy statement, dated September 5, 2001, in connection with the special meeting on October 26, 2001 of its shareholders to approve certain matters related to the Distribution. Both the Form 8-A and the proxy statement have been filed by C-W with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and can be obtained as described under "Additional Information" below.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Distribution to holders of Unitrin Common Stock. As noted below, Unitrin will provide holders of Unitrin Common Stock with certain additional U.S. federal income tax information promptly following the Distribution.

Unitrin has received a letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) to the effect that, among other things, the Distribution will qualify as a tax-free spin-off under Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Under Section 355 of the Code, in general:

1. A holder of Unitrin Common Stock will not recognize any income, gain or loss as a result of the Distribution of C-W Class B Common Stock, except in connection with cash received in lieu of a fractional share of such stock. A holder of Unitrin Common Stock who receives cash in lieu of a fractional share of C-W Class B Common Stock will be treated as if such fractional share had been received by such shareholder as part of the Distribution and then sold by such shareholder. As a result, such shareholder will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the cash received and the amount of tax basis allocable (as described below) to such fractional share. Any gain recognized by a shareholder generally will be capital gain and will be treated as long-term capital gain if such shareholder has held the Unitrin Common Stock for more than one year.
2. A holder of Unitrin Common Stock must apportion its tax basis in such Unitrin Common Stock between such Unitrin Common Stock and the C-W Class B Common Stock received by the shareholder in the Distribution in proportion to the relative fair market values of the Unitrin Common Stock and the C-W Class B Common Stock on the date of the Distribution.
3. The holding period for the C-W Class B Common Stock received in the Distribution by a holder of Unitrin Common Stock will include the period during which such shareholder held the Unitrin Common Stock with respect to which the Distribution was made, provided that such Unitrin Common Stock is held as a capital asset by such shareholder on the date of the Distribution.
4. The IRS requires that each holder of Unitrin Common Stock who receives shares of C-W Class B Common Stock pursuant to the Distribution attach to its U.S. federal income tax return for the tax period including the date of the Distribution, a statement containing the details of the transaction.

As soon as practicable following the Distribution, Unitrin will provide holders of Unitrin Common Stock with a tax information statement that will contain detailed information concerning the basis allocation and holding period rules described above. Such tax information will also include the information shareholders will be required to attach to their U.S. federal income tax returns.

The IRS ruling letter is subject to certain factual representations and assumptions. If such representations and assumptions were incorrect in a material respect, such ruling could become invalid. Unitrin is not aware of any facts or circumstances that would cause such representations and assumptions to be incorrect. C-W has agreed to certain restrictions on its future actions to provide further assurances that the Distribution will continue to qualify as tax-free. If the IRS ruling letter were to become invalid and the Distribution were not to qualify under Section 355 of the Code, each holder of Unitrin Common Stock receiving shares of C-W Class B Common Stock would be treated as if such shareholder had received a taxable distribution in an amount equal to the fair market value of the C-W Class B Common Stock received. This would result in (i) a dividend to such shareholder to the extent of such shareholder’s pro rata share of Unitrin’s current and accumulated earnings and profits, (ii) a reduction in such shareholder’s tax basis in Unitrin Common Stock to the extent the amount received exceeded such shareholder’s share of earnings and profits and (iii) a gain from the exchange of Unitrin Common Stock to the extent the amount received exceeds both such shareholder’s share of earnings and profits and such shareholder’s basis in Unitrin Common Stock.

The summary of the U.S. federal income tax consequences set forth above is for general reference only and does not purport to cover all U.S. federal income tax consequences that may apply to all categories of

shareholders. All shareholders should consult their own advisors as to the specific tax consequences of the Distribution, including the application and effect of foreign, state and local tax laws.

Additional Information

Each of Unitrin and C-W files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. Shareholders and other persons may read and copy any reports, statements or other information filed by Unitrin or C-W with the Commission at the Commission's public reference facilities located at the Public Reference Room, Room 1024, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Judiciary Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20549 and at the following Regional Offices of the Commission: New York Regional Office, 233 Broadway, New York, New York 10279 and Chicago Regional Office, Citicorp Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661. Such material may also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Certain of such reports, statements and other information filed by Unitrin or C-W are also available on the Internet at the Commission's World Wide Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.