

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Dotson, Jr., John L.
 425 Christmas Tree Drive
 Boulder, Colorado 80302
2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)
 December 19, 2001
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 The Washington Post Company
 WPO
5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other
 (specify below)
6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned	3. Ownership Form: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Class B Common Stock	100	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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Explanation of Responses:
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 John L. Dotson, Jr. by Diana M. Daniels
 DATE
 December 20, 2001