Instruction 1(b).

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* HOWE JOHN R | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CATO CORP [CTR] | | | | | | | | | | Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|--|---|---|---|--|---------|---|-------------------------|--|----------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) P.O. BOX 34216 | | | , | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 07/27/2007 | | | | | | | | | _ x | Officer (aire title | | | Other (s below) | | | | |
| (Street) CHARL (City) | | NC State) | 282344216 (Zip) | 5 | 4. 1 | . If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | | G. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| | | Ta | ble I - Non | n-Deriva | ativ | re Se | curi | ties A | Acquire | ed, C | Disp | osed o | of, o | r Bene | ficially | Owned | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | | | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | | on | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, | | ate, Tr | , Transaction Code (Instr. | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 5) | | (A) or | 5. Amour Securities Beneficia Owned Fe | s Illy ollowing | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Co | Code V | | Amount | | (A) or (D) | Price | Reported Transacti (Instr. 3 a | ion(s) | | | (Instr. 4) | |
| CLASS A COMMON STOCK | | | | | 7/20 | 07 | | | N | M ⁽¹⁾ | | 1,80 | 00 | A | \$5.5 | 5,548 | | | D | | |
| | | | Table II - I | Derivat (e.g., p | | | | | | | | | | | | Owned | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | | 3A. Deemed Execution Da if any (Month/Day/Y | ate, Tra | ransaction ode (Instr. | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercise Expiration Date (Month/Day/Yea | | te | e and | 7. Title and Amou of Securities Underlying Derivative Securit (Instr. 3 and 4) | | curity | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Numbe derivative Securities Beneficia Owned Following Reported Transacti (Instr. 4) | ve es ally ng d tion(s) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Co | ode | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercis | sable | Ex | piration te | Title | | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$5.5 | 07/27/2007 | | М | [⁽¹⁾ | | | 1,800 | 08/28/1 | .998 ⁽¹⁾ | 08/ | 28/2007 | COM | SS A IMON OCK | 1,800 | \$0 | 0.00 | | D | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$8.96 | | | | | | | | 08/11/1 | 999 ⁽²⁾ | 08/ | 11/2008 | COM | SS A IMON OCK | 7,500 | | 7,500 |) | D | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$8.83 | | | | | | | | 08/28/ | 2000 | 08/ | 28/2009 | COM | SS A IMON OCK | 4,500 | | 4,500 | | D | | |
| Stock Option (Right to | \$8.19 | | | | | | | | 11/01/20 | 000 ⁽³⁾ | 11/ | 01/2009 | COM | SS A | 4,500 | | 4,500 |) | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. This option will vest in 5 equal annual increments beginning 08/28/1998.
- 2. This option will vest in 5 equal annual increments beginning 08/11/1999.
- 3. This option will vest in 5 equal annual increments beginning 11/01/2000.

Remarks:

By: BRIAN S. MCALPINE POWER OF ATTORNEY

07/30/2007

** Signature of Reporting Person

STOCK

Date

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

- * 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.