UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FORM 5

APPROVAT.

CHECK BOX IF NO LONGER WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 OMB NUMBER

3235-0362

SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP EXPIRES:

SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY

AVERAGE BURDEN

ESTIMATED

CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B). HOURS PER

RESPONSE....1.0

FORM 3 HOLDINGS REPORTED Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act FORM 4 TRANSACTIONS REPORTED of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of

1935 or Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 -----<C> 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* 2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or 6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer Trading Symbol (Check all applicable) ___X__ Director 10% Owner X Officer _ Other (give title below) (specify below) Chief Financial Officer. Vice President-Wright, Theodore M. Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH") Finance, Treasurer and Secretary (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. IRS 4. Statement or Social for Security Month/Year Number of Reporting Person, (Voluntary) 5401 E. Independence Blvd. 12/98 _ ------_____ 5. If 7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check (Street) Applicable Amendment, Line) $_{\rm X}$ Form filed by One Reporting Person Date of ___ Form filed by More than One Original Reporting Person (Month/Year) Charlotte, NC 28212 ------(City) (State) (Zip) TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED 5. 1. 2. 3. Amount of Owner-Securities ship Trans-Trans-Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Beneficially Form: action action Owned at Direct Nature of End of Code Date (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (D) or Indirect (Instr. 8) -----Title of (Month/ Issuer's Indirect Beneficial Security Fiscal Year (I) Day/ ----- Amount (A) or Price Ownership (Instr. (Instr. 3) Year) (D) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) 3 and 4)

(Over)

SEC 2270 (9-96)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

FORM 5 (CONTINUED)

TABLE II -- DERIVATIVE SECURITIES

ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

(E.G., PUTS, CALLS, WARRANTS, OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE
SECURITIES)

_____ 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 11. 10. _____ -------------------_____ Title and Ownership Number of Date Exer-Amount of of Derivative cisable and Underlying Number of Deriv-Securities Expiration Securities Price Derivative ative of Trans-Acquired (A) Date (Month/ (Instr. 3 Securities Conver-Security: sion or Transaction or Disposed Day/Year) and 4) Deriv-Benefi-Direct Exercise action Code of (D) _____ _____ ative cially (D) or Nature of Title of Price of Date (Instr. (Instr. 3, Date Amount Secur-Owned at Indirect Indirect Derivative Deriv-(Month/ 8) 4 and 5) Exer-Expiror Num- itv End of (I) Beneficial Security ative -----Dav/ ----cisation her of (Instr. Year (Instr. Ownership (Instr. 3) Security Year) Title 5) (A) (D) able Date Shares (Instr. 4) 4) (Instr. 4) <S> <C> Class A 100,000 Common 100,000 Options to purchase \$9.19 (1) 10/6/98 (1) (2) 10/6/08 Stock (1) \$9.19 (1) 176,376 _ _____ _____

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Explanation of Responses:
Explanation of Responses:
(1) On October 6, 1998, Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("Sonic") granted Mr. Wright options to purchase 50,000 shares of Cla

ass A common

stock at an exercise price of \$18.38 per share pursuant to the Sonic 1997 Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). On January 25, 1999,

Sonic effected a 2-for-1 split of its Class A common stock (the "Stock Split"). In connection with the Stock Split, and pursuant

to the terms of the Plan, Mr. Wright's options were adjusted to options to purchase 100,000 shares of Class A common stock at an exercise price of \$9.19 per share.

(2) The options reported above are exercisable beginning on April 6, 1999, subject to stockholder approval of an increase in the

number of option shares available for issuance under the Plan.

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. SEE 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a)

/s/ Theodore M. Wright _____ ** Signature of Reporting Person April 7, 1999 _____ Date

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

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

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