

KELLY ALFRED F JR  
Form 4  
December 23, 2004

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**KELLY ALFRED F JR**  
  
(Last) (First) (Middle)  
  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS  
TOWERAMERICAN EXPRESS  
T, 3 WORLD FINANCIAL  
CENTER3 WORLD FINANCIA**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
**12/22/2004**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)  
  
 Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**Member, Global Leadership Team**

(Street)  
  
**NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003**  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. 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 Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Shares	12/22/2004	12/22/2004	S		22,500	D	\$ 56.92
Common Shares	12/22/2004	12/22/2004	S		1,100	D	\$ 56.93
Common Shares	12/22/2004	12/22/2004	S		900	D	\$ 56.94
Common Shares	12/22/2004	12/22/2004	S		417	D	\$ 56.95
							4,465
							I

Common  
Shares

401(k)  
Trust <sup>(1)</sup>

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

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
KELLY ALFRED F JR AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER AMERICAN EXPRESS T 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER 3 WORLD FINANCIA NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003			Member, Global Leadership Team	

## Signatures

Alfred F. Kelly,  
Jr. 12/23/2004

     \*\*Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* 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).

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- (1) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Incentive Savings Plan as of December 20, 2004. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.

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.