

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 485BPOS

Post-effective amendments [Rule 485(b)]

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FILER

DEFINED ASSET FDS STRIPPED ZERO US TREA SEC FD PROV MUTUAL A

CIK: **786284** | IRS No.: **000000000** | State of Incorpor.: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
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WARDWELL
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AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON MAY 2, 2005

REGISTRATION NO. 33-02455

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 22
TO
FORM S-6

FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT
OF 1933 OF SECURITIES OF UNIT INVESTMENT
TRUSTS REGISTERED ON FORM N-8B-2

A. EXACT NAME OF TRUST:

THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

B. NAMES OF DEPOSITOR:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED

C. COMPLETE ADDRESS OF DEPOSITOR'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED
DEFINED ASSET FUNDS
POST OFFICE BOX 9051
PRINCETON, N.J. 08543-9051

D. NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR SERVICE:

<Table>

<S>	<C>	ANDREW DONOHUE, ESQ. P.O. BOX 9011 PRINCETON, N.J. 08543-9011	<C>
-----	-----	---------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

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COPIES TO:
NORA M. JORDAN, ESQ.
DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL
450 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

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Check box if it is proposed that this filing will become effective on May 2, 2005 pursuant to paragraph (b) of Rule 485. /X/

DEFINED ASSET FUNDS-REGISTERED TRADEMARK-

THE STRIPPED ("ZERO")
U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A
A NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT VARIABLE LIFE ACCOUNT

INVESTMENT

- PORTFOLIO OF "ZERO COUPON" U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES
- DESIGNED FOR SAFETY OF CAPITAL AND HIGH YIELD TO MATURITY
- UNITS SOLD TO SEPARATE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS OF NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA TO FUND BENEFITS UNDER VARIABLE LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

SPONSOR:
MERRILL LYNCH,
PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these Securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated May 2, 2005.

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RISK/RETURN SUMMARY

1. WHAT IS THE FUND'S OBJECTIVE?

The Fund seeks safety of capital and high yield to maturity by investing in a fixed portfolio primarily of Stripped U.S. Treasury securities.

Units are currently offered only to Nationwide Provident's Zero Coupon Bond Subaccount to fund the benefits under variable insurance policies issued by Nationwide Life Insurance Company of America ("NLICA" or "Nationwide Provident"). The Fund's name was changed on April 28, 2003, to reflect Nationwide Financial Services, Inc.'s acquisition of Provident Mutual. These Accounts invest in units in accordance with allocation instructions received by policyowners. Accordingly, the interests of a policyowner in the units are subject to the terms of the insurance policy.

The rights of the Accounts as holders of units should be distinguished from the rights of the policyowners. Please review the accompanying prospectus for the insurance policies, which describes the rights of and risks to policyowners. The term "you" in this Prospectus refers to the Accounts (or the Sponsor if it holds units in the secondary market).

2. WHAT ARE STRIPPED U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES?

These are debt obligations directly issued by the U.S. Treasury. They do not make any periodic payments of interest before maturity and are priced at a deep discount from face amount. They pay a fixed amount of principal at maturity.

3. WHAT IS THE FUND'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY?

- The Fund consists of the 2006 Trust, a unit investment trust that is designated by the year in which its Stripped Treasury securities mature. The trust also contains an interest-bearing U.S. Treasury note to provide income to pay the trust's expenses.
- Unlike a mutual fund, the portfolio of this unit investment trust is not managed.
- For each 1,000 units purchased, you will receive a total distribution of approximately \$1,000 for units held until maturity of the underlying securities in the trust.
- The securities in the Fund BUT NOT THE FUND OR THE UNITS are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.
- 100% of the trust's portfolio consists of U.S. Treasury securities.

4. WHAT ARE THE SIGNIFICANT RISKS?

YOU CAN LOSE MONEY BY INVESTING IN THE FUND. THIS CAN HAPPEN FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING:

- Rising interest rates can reduce the value of the units.
- Since the portfolio is priced at a deep discount from face amount, unit prices may be subject to greater fluctuations in response to changing interest rates. This risk is greater than on debt securities that pay interest currently and decreases with the time to maturity.
- If units are sold before the underlying securities mature, the sales price may be less, because market prices of the securities before maturity will vary with changes in interest rates and other factors. The Sponsor may seek to terminate the outstanding trust. Such termination would result in sale of the securities before maturity and recognition of gains or losses.

5. IS THIS FUND APPROPRIATE FOR YOU?

Yes, if you want safety of capital with a locked-in yield to maturity. You benefit from a portfolio of U.S. government securities with fixed returns and a stated maturity.

The Fund is NOT appropriate for you if you want current income or a speculative investment that changes to take advantage of market movements.

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6. WHAT ARE THE FUND'S FEES AND EXPENSES?

This table shows the costs and expenses the Account may pay, directly or indirectly, when it invests in the Fund.

TRANSACTION CHARGES

Nationwide Provident initially pays a transaction charge to the Sponsor on

the units sold to the Account, and Nationwide Provident intends to recover this amount through an asset charge. See the accompanying Prospectus for the insurance policies for further information. The transaction charge is based on the remaining years to maturity of the Stripped Treasury Security:

<Table>
<Caption>

	REMAINING YEARS TO MATURITY PERCENT OF OFFERING PRICE -----
<S>	<C>
Less than 2 years.....	0.25%

ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

<S>	<C>
Trustee's Annual Fee and Expenses Per \$1,000 face amount of the underlying securities.	\$0.50

7. IS THE FUND MANAGED?

Unlike a mutual fund, the Fund is not managed and securities are not sold because of market changes. To lock in the yield on the purchase date, a trust holds securities to maturity unless sales are needed to raise cash for redemptions.

8. HOW DO I BUY UNITS?

Each Account buys units from the Sponsor. There is no minimum investment.

UNIT PRICE

(as of December 31, 2004)

<Table>
<Caption>

	SERIES A 2006 TRUST -----
<S>	<C>
Net asset value (based on offer side evaluation of underlying securities)	\$979.60
Plus transaction charge	\$ 2.46

<S>	<C>
UNIT PRICE PER 1,000 UNITS	\$ 982.06

Unit price is based on the net asset value of the Fund plus the applicable transaction charge shown below. Any principal cash, and any net accrued but undistributed interest on the unit is added to the unit price. An independent evaluator prices the securities at their offer side values at 3:30 p.m. Eastern time each business day. Unit price varies daily with changes in the prices of the securities in the trust.

9. HOW DO I SELL UNITS?

An Account may sell units at any time to the Sponsor or the Trustee for the net asset value determined at the close of business on the date of sale. You will not pay any fee when you sell your units.

10. HOW ARE DISTRIBUTIONS MADE AND TAXED?

Stripped Treasury securities do not pay interest until they mature; consequently, you should not expect any distributions of interest income. When the Stripped Treasury security matures, the proceeds will be distributed

to the Accounts. A distribution will be made in cash two business days following the maturity of the Stripped Treasury security.

The Accounts (not the policyowners) have significant amounts of income attributed to them annually as original issue discount is accrued on the Stripped Treasury securities.

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WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR INVESTMENT

DISTRIBUTIONS

The trust normally holds any net income and principal received until the Stripped Treasury security matures. However, the Trustee may distribute any available balances in the Income and Capital Accounts once a year, as instructed by the Sponsor.

RECORDS AND REPORTS

The Accounts receive:

- with any distribution, a statement of income and other payments;
- an annual report on Fund transactions; and
- annual tax information. THIS IS ALSO SENT TO THE IRS.

You will receive audited financial statements of the Fund once a year.

THE RISK YOU FACE

PRICE RISK

Investing involves risks, including the risk that your investment before maturity will decline in value if interest rates rise. Generally, the price of Stripped Treasury securities fluctuates more widely than prices of debt securities that pay interest currently. Also, securities with longer maturities will change in value more than securities with shorter maturities. Of course, we cannot predict how interest rates may change.

SELLING OR EXCHANGING UNITS

SPONSOR'S SECONDARY MARKET

While we are not obligated to do so, we intend to buy back units at their offer side value without any fee or charge. We may resell the units to an Account or to the Trustee.

SELLING UNITS TO THE TRUSTEE

Regardless of whether we maintain a secondary market, an Account can sell units to the Trustee at any time at a price based on the lower bid side evaluation of the securities in the trust. It must deliver instructions to the Trustee (with coordinated delivery or assignment of any outstanding certificates if issued).

Within seven days after receiving a redemption request in proper form, the Trustee will transmit the proceeds as directed by the redemption instructions. An Account may opt to receive securities rather than cash. Contact the Trustee for additional information.

If there is no secondary market, the Trustee may sell your units in the over-the-counter market for a higher price, but it is not obligated to do so. In that case, you will receive the net proceeds of the sale.

If the Fund does not have cash available to pay for units redeemed, the Sponsor will select securities to be sold, based on market and credit factors. These sales could be made at times when the securities would not otherwise be sold and may result in receiving less than the unit par value and also reduce the size of the trust.

Payments for units could be delayed:

- if the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and

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- if the SEC determines that trading on the New York Stock Exchange is restricted or that an emergency exists making sale or evaluation of the bonds not reasonably practicable; and
- for any other period permitted by SEC order.

HOW THE FUND WORKS

PRICING

The price of a unit includes interest accrued on the securities, less expenses, up to, but not including, the settlement date, which is usually the business day after purchase of the unit.

EVALUATIONS

An independent Evaluator values the securities on each business day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and the following holidays as observed by the New York Stock Exchange: New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas; and the following federal holidays: Columbus Day and Veterans Day). Values are based on current offer prices for the securities or comparable bonds.

INCOME

The Trustee credits interest to an Income Account and other receipts to a Capital Account. The Trustee may establish a Reserve Account by withdrawing from these accounts amounts it considers appropriate to pay any material liability. These accounts do not bear interest.

EXPENSES

The Trustee is paid semi-annually. It also benefits when it holds cash for a trust in non-interest bearing accounts. The Trustee may also receive additional amounts:

- to reimburse the Trustee for the trust's operating expenses;
- for extraordinary services and costs of indemnifying the Trustee and the Sponsor;
- costs of actions taken to protect a trust and other legal fees and expenses;
- termination expenses and any governmental charges.

The trust also pays the Evaluator's fees.

The Trustee's and Evaluator's fees may be adjusted for inflation without investors' approval.

If trust expenses exceed initial estimates, the trust will owe the excess. The Trustee has a lien on trust assets to secure reimbursement of trust expenses and may sell bonds if cash is not available.

PORTFOLIO CHANGES

The Sponsor and Trustee are not liable for any default or defect in a security.

Unlike a mutual fund, the portfolio is designed to remain intact and we may keep securities in the portfolio even if adverse financial circumstances occur. However, we may sell a security in certain cases if we believe that certain adverse credit or other conditions exist.

If we maintain a secondary market in units but are unable to sell the units that we buy in the secondary market, we will redeem units, which may affect the composition of the portfolio. Units offered in the secondary

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market may not represent the same face amount of securities that they did originally.

We decide whether or not to offer units for sale that we acquire in the secondary market after reviewing:

- diversity of the portfolio;
- size of the trust relative to its original size;
- level of trust expenses;
- yield to maturity;
- degree to which units may be selling at a premium over par; and
- cost of maintaining a current prospectus.

TERMINATION

Each trust terminates following the stated maturity or sale of the last security in its portfolio. The trust may also terminate earlier with the consent of investors holding 51% of the units or its total assets are less than 40% of the face amount of securities deposited. We will decide whether to terminate a trust early based on the same factors used in deciding whether or not to offer units in the secondary market.

When a trust is about to terminate the Account will receive a notice, and it will be unable to sell units of the trust after that time. On or shortly before termination, we will sell any remaining securities, and you will receive your final distribution. Any security that cannot be sold at a reasonable price may continue to be held by the Trustee in a liquidating trust pending its final sale.

You will bear your share of the expenses associated with termination, including costs in selling securities. This may reduce the amount you receive as your final distribution.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates for units are issued on request. An Account transfer certificates by complying with the requirements for redeeming certificates, described above. It can replace lost or mutilated certificates by delivering satisfactory indemnity and paying the associated costs.

TRUST INDENTURE

The Fund is a "unit investment trust" governed by a trust Indenture, a contract among the Sponsor, the Trustee and the Evaluator, which sets forth their duties and obligations and your rights. A copy of the Indenture is available to you on request to the Trustee. The following summarizes certain provisions of the Indenture.

The Sponsor and the Trustee may amend the Indenture without your consent:

- to cure ambiguities;
- to correct or supplement any defective or inconsistent provision;
- to make any amendment required by any governmental agency; or
- to make other changes determined not to be materially adverse to your best interest (as determined by the Sponsor).

Investors holding 51% of the units may amend the Indenture. Every investor must consent to any amendment that changes the 51% requirement. No amendment may reduce your interest in the Fund without your written consent.

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The Trustee may resign by notifying the Sponsor. The Sponsor may remove the Trustee without your consent if:

- it fails to perform its duties and the Sponsor determines that its replacement is in your best interest; or
- it becomes incapable of acting or bankrupt or its affairs are taken over by public authorities.

Investors holding 51% of the units may remove the Trustee. The Evaluator may resign or be removed by the Sponsor and the Trustee without the consent of investors. The resignation or removal of either becomes effective when a successor accepts appointment. The Sponsor will try to appoint a successor promptly; however, if no successor has accepted within 30 days after notice of

resignation, the resigning Trustee or Evaluator may petition a court to appoint a successor.

If the Sponsor fails to perform its duties or becomes bankrupt the Trustee may:

- remove it and appoint a replacement Sponsor;
- liquidate the trusts; or
- continue to act as Trustee without a Sponsor.

The trust Indenture contains customary provisions limiting the liability of the Trustee, the Sponsor and the Evaluator.

LEGAL OPINION

Davis Polk & Wardwell, 450 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, as special counsel for the Sponsor, has given an opinion that the units are validly issued.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Deloitte & Touche LLP, 2 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281, independent registered public accounting firm, audited the Financial Statements included in this Prospectus.

SPONSOR

The Sponsor is:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.)
P.O. Box 9051, Princeton, NJ 08543-9051

The Sponsor is a Delaware corporation and it, or its predecessor, has acted as sponsor to many unit investment trusts. As a registered broker-dealer the Sponsor buys and sells securities (including investment company shares) for others (including investment companies) and participates as an underwriter in various selling groups.

TRUSTEE

Bank of New York, Unit Investment Trust Department, 2 Hanson Place, 12th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217, is the Trustee. It is supervised by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and New York State banking authorities.

SPONSOR'S PROFITS

Upon the sale of units, the Sponsor receives the transaction charge from an Account (as set out above). The Sponsor also realizes a profit or loss on each deposit of securities in a trust.

In maintaining a secondary market, the Sponsor will also realize profits or sustain

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losses in the amount of any difference between the prices at which it buys units and the prices at which it resells or redeems those units.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Fund and the Sponsor have each adopted a code of ethics requiring reporting of personal securities transactions by its employees with access to information on Fund transactions. Subject to certain conditions, the codes permit employees to invest in Fund securities for their own accounts. The codes are designed to prevent fraud, deception and misconduct against the Fund and to provide reasonable standards of conduct. These codes are on file with the Commission and you may obtain a copy by contacting the Commission at the address listed on the

back cover of this prospectus.

TAXES

The following discussion relates only to the Accounts as holders of units, and not to policyowners. The separate prospectus for the insurance policies, attached, describes tax consequences to policyowners.

In the opinion of our counsel, under existing law:

The Fund will not be taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, and you will be considered to own directly your share of each Stripped Treasury security in the Fund.

The zero coupon bonds will be considered to have been issued at an "original issue discount" for federal income tax purposes. As a result, you will be required to include original issue discount in respect of the zero coupon bonds as it accrues, in accordance with a constant yield method based on a compounding of interest.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

You can receive at no cost supplemental information about the Fund by calling the Trustee. The supplemental information includes more detailed risk disclosure about the securities that may be in the Fund's portfolio and general information about the structure and operation of the Fund. The supplemental information is also available from the SEC.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

The Sponsor, Trustee and Holders
of The Stripped ("Zero")
U.S. Treasury Securities Fund,
Nationwide Provident Series A:

We have audited the accompanying statement of condition of the 2006 Trust of The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund, Nationwide Provident Series A (the "Fund"), including the portfolio, as of December 31, 2004 and the related statements of operations, changes in net assets and financial highlights for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Trustee's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. The Trust is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. Securities owned at December 31, 2004, as shown in such portfolios, were confirmed to us by The Bank of New York, the Trustee. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the 2006 Trust of The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund, Nationwide Provident Series A at December 31, 2004 and the results of its operations, changes in its net assets and its financial highlights for the above-stated years in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

New York, N.Y.
April 7, 2005

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") US TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004

<Table>
<Caption>

	2006 TRUST
<S>	<C>
TRUST PROPERTY:	
Investment in marketable securities	\$ 12,654,268
(see Portfolio and Note 1)	7,800
Other	-----
	12,662,068

Total trust property	12,662,068

LESS LIABILITY - Other	1,524

NET ASSETS (Note 2)	\$ 12,660,544
	=====
UNITS OUTSTANDING	12,901,151
	=====
UNIT VALUE	\$ 0.98135
	=====

</Table>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") US TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

<Table>
<Caption>

	2006 TRUST		
	YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	2004	2003	2002
	-----	-----	-----
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
INVESTMENT INCOME:			
Interest income	\$ 6,895	\$ 8,102	\$ 8,574
Accretion of original issue discount	721,183	877,057	835,020
Trustee's fees and expenses	(5,432)	(8,804)	(7,740)
	-----	-----	-----
Net investment income	722,646	876,355	835,854
	-----	-----	-----

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS:			
Realized gain on securities sold or redeemed	100,763	280,609	
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	(693,165)	(716,778)	772,236

Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(592,402)	(436,169)	772,236

NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 130,244	\$ 440,186	\$ 1,608,090
	=====		

</Table>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") US TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<Table>

<Caption>

	2006 TRUST YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	2004	2003	2002

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
OPERATIONS:			
Net investment income	\$ 722,646	\$ 876,355	\$ 835,854
Realized gain on securities sold or redeemed	100,763	280,609	
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	(693,165)	(716,778)	772,236

Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	130,244	440,186	1,608,090

CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS: (Note 2)			
Issuance of 797,018 additional units			729,508
Redemptions of 1,690,270 and 3,003,780 units, respectively (Note 3)	(1,646,229)	(2,880,127)	

Net capital share transactions	(1,646,229)	(2,880,127)	729,508

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(1,515,985)	(2,439,941)	2,337,598
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	14,176,529	16,616,470	14,278,872

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 12,660,544	\$ 14,176,529	\$ 16,616,470
	=====		
UNIT VALUE, END OF YEAR	\$ 0.98135	\$ 0.97157	\$ 0.94438
	=====		
TRUST UNITS OUTSTANDING AT END OF YEAR	12,901,151	14,591,421	17,595,201
	=====		

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See Notes to Financial Statements.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Fund is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a Unit Investment Trust. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The policies are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

- (a) Securities are stated at value as determined by the independent Evaluator based on bid side evaluations for the securities.
- (b) Cost of securities is based on offering side evaluations for the securities at Dates of Deposit. Cost of securities subsequent to such dates of purchase has been adjusted to include the accretion of original issue discount on the Stripped Treasury Securities. Realized gains and losses on sales of securities are determined using the first-in, first-out cost basis.
- (c) The Fund is not subject to income taxes. Accordingly, no provision for such taxes is required.

2. NET ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 2004

<Table>		
<S>		<C>
Cost of 12,901,151 units at Dates of Deposit		\$ 8,550,730
Less sales charge		149,639

Net amount applicable to Holders		8,401,091
Realized gain on securities sold or redeemed		577,068
Net unrealized appreciation of investments		440,767
Redemptions of units - net cost of 10,161,949 units less redemption amounts		(584,579)
Undistributed net investment income - accretion of original issue discount (\$3,820,100) plus excess (\$6,097) of interest income over Trustee's fees and expenses		3,826,197

Net assets		\$ 12,660,544
		=====

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. REDEMPTIONS

Units may be redeemed at the office of the Trustee upon tender thereof, generally on any business day or, in the case of un-certificated units, upon delivery of a request for redemption and payment of any relevant tax. The Trustee will redeem units either in cash or in kind at the option of the Holder as specified in writing to the Trustee.

4. INCOME TAXES

All items of income received, accretion of original issue discount, expenses paid, and realized gains and losses on securities sold are attributable to the holders, on a pro rata basis, for Federal income tax purposes in accordance with the grantor trust rules of the United States

Internal Revenue Code.

At December 31, 2004, the cost of investment securities for Federal income tax purposes was approximately equivalent to the adjusted cost as shown in the Trust's portfolio.

5. DISTRIBUTIONS

It is anticipated that the Trust will not make any distributions until the first business day following the maturity of its holdings in the Stripped Treasury Securities, which are non-interest-bearing.

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

PORTFOLIO
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004

<Table>

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PORTFOLIO NO. AND TITLE OF SECURITIES	INTEREST RATE	MATURITIES	FACE AMOUNT	ADJUSTED COST (NOTE A)	VALUE (NOTE A)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
2006 TRUST					
1 Stripped Treasury Securities	0.00%	02/15/06	\$ 12,947,000	\$ 12,128,894	\$ 12,579,928
2 U.S. Treasury Bonds	9.375	02/15/06	69,234	84,607	74,340
			-----	-----	-----
Total			\$ 13,016,234	\$ 12,213,501	\$ 12,654,268
			=====	=====	=====

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Note A - See Note 1 to Financial Statements

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

December 31, 2004

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	2006 TRUST YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	2004	2003	2002
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Per Unit Operating Performance:			
Net asset value, Beginning of period	\$ 0.97157	\$ 0.94438	\$ 0.85002
	-----	-----	-----
Operating profit	0.05305	0.05467	0.04938
Expense	(0.00040)	(0.00054)	(0.00045)
	-----	-----	-----
Net investment income	0.05265	0.05413	0.04893
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.04316)	(0.02694)	0.04520

Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	0.00949	0.02719	0.09413
Net capital share transactions	0.00029	0.00000	0.00023
Net asset value, end of period	0.98135	0.97157	0.94438
Total Return	0.97%	2.84%	10.50%
Ratio to average net assets:			
Expense	-0.04%	-0.06%	-0.05%
Net investment income	5.39%	5.65%	5.46%

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DEFINED
ASSET FUNDS-REGISTERED TRADEMARK-

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HAVE QUESTIONS ?
Request the most recent free Information Supplement that gives more details about the Fund, by calling:
Bank of New York
1-800-221-7771

THE STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S TREASURY SECURITIES FUND, NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

This Prospectus does not contain complete information about the investment company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. under the:
- Securities Act of 1933 (file number: 33-02455);
- Investment Company Act of 1940 (file no. 811-4541).

TO OBTAIN COPIES AT PRESCRIBED RATES--

WRITE: Public Reference Section of the Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20549-6009
CALL: 1-800-SEC-0330.
VISIT: <http://www.sec.gov>.

No person is authorized to give any information or representations about this Fund not contained in this Prospectus or the Information Supplement, and you should not rely on any other information.

14205--5/05

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THE STRIPPED
("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND,
NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A
CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT

This Post-Effective Amendment to the Registration Statement on Form S-6 comprises the following papers and documents:

The facing sheet of Form S-6.

The Prospectus.

The Signatures.

The following exhibits:

- 1.1.1-- Form of Standard Terms and Conditions of Trust Effective as of October 21, 1993 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1.1 to the Registration Statement of Municipal Investment Trust Fund, Multi-state Series--48, 1933 Act File No. 33-50247).
- 1.11.1-- Merrill Lynch Code of Ethics (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.11.1 to the Post Effective Amendment No. 10 to the Registration Statement of Government Securities Income Fund, U.S. Treasury Series--7, 1933 Act File No. 33-28452).
- 1.11.2-- Government Securities Income Fund Code of Ethics (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.11.2 to the Post Effective Amendment No. 10 to the Registration Statement of Government Securities Income Fund, U.S. Treasury Series--7, 1933 Act No. 33-28452).
- 4.1 --Consent of the Evaluator.*
- 5.1 --Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.*
- 9.1 -- Information Supplement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 9.1 to the Registration Statement of Government Securities Income Fund, Freddie Mac Series 12, 1933 Act File No. 33-56849).
- 24 -- Powers of Attorney*

* File herewith

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THE STRIPPED ("ZERO")
U.S. TREASURY SECURITIES FUND, NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant, The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund, Nationwide Provident Series A certifies that it meets all of the requirements for effectiveness of this Registration Statement pursuant to Rule 485(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 and has duly caused this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized in the City of New York and State of New York on the 2nd day of May, 2005.

SIGNATURES APPEAR ON PAGES R-3

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated has signed this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement pursuant to Powers of Attorney authorizing the person signing this Registration Statement or Amendment to the Registration Statement to do so on behalf of such members.

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MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
DEPOSITOR

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BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS, WHO CONSTITUTE POWERS OF ATTORNEY HAVE BEEN FILED
A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREWITH UNDER THE FOLLOWING 1933
OF MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & ACT FILE NUMBER: 33-02455
SMITH INCORPORATED:
</Table>

CANDACE E. BROWNING
JAMES P. GORMAN
CARLOS M. MORALES

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By: /s/ Jay M. Fife

Jay M. Fife
(As authorized signatory for Merrill Lynch, Pierce,
Fenner & Smith Incorporated and
Attorney-in-fact for the persons listed above)
</Table>

INTERACTIVE DATA
FINANCIAL TIMES INFORMATION
498 7TH AVENUE, 19TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10018
(212) 497-5030
FAX 212-497-3100

May 2, 2005

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Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
Defined Asset Funds
P.O. Box 9051
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9051
Bank of New York
2 Hanson Place, 12th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
</Table>

RE: DEFINED ASSET FUNDS--GOVERNMENT SECURITIES INCOME FUND,
STRIPPED ("ZERO") U.S. TREASURY SECURITY FUND, NATIONWIDE PROVIDENT SERIES A

(A Unit Investment Trust) Units of Fractional Undivided Interest-Registered
Under the Securities Act of 1933, File No. 33-02455)

Gentlemen:

We have examined the Registration Statement for the above captioned Fund.

We hereby consent to the reference to Interactive Data Services, Inc. in the Prospectus contained in the Post-Effective Amendment No. 22 to the Registration Statement for the above captioned Fund and to the use of the evaluations of the Obligations prepared by us which are referred to in such Prospectus and Registration Statement.

You are authorized to file copies of this letter with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Very truly yours,
STEVEN MIANO
Director Fixed Income
Data Operations

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Sponsor and Trustee of
The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund, Nationwide Provident,
Series A

We consent to the use in this Post-Effective Amendment No. 22 to Registration Statement Number: 33-02455 on Form S-6 of our opinion dated April 7, 2005, appearing in the Prospectus, which is part of such Registration Statement, and to the reference to us under the heading "Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" in such Prospectus.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP
New York, N.Y.
April 28, 2005

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned director of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a Delaware corporation (hereinafter called the "Corporation"), does hereby constitute and appoint each of Jay M. Fife, Donald C. Burke and Daniel A. Moonay, acting individually, her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, each with full power to act without the others, for her and in her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to do any and all acts and things, and execute in her name any and all instruments, which said attorneys-in-fact and agents may deem necessary or advisable in order to enable the Corporation to comply with the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, and any requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with the registration under said Acts of (i) units of fractional undivided interest in one or more series of Corporate Income Fund; Defined Asset Funds; Equity Investor Fund; The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund; Government Securities Income Fund; The Merrill Lynch Fund of Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities; Municipal Investment Trust Fund or any other unit investment trust fund (or other unit based investment vehicles not involving active management) established in accordance with the Investment Company Act of 1940 for which the Corporation, alone or with others, will act as Depositor or Sponsor and/or Underwriter, and (ii) the aforesaid trusts, including specifically power and authority to sign her name to any and all Notifications of Registration and/or Registration Statements to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under either of the said Acts in respect to such units and trusts, any amendment (including post-effective amendment) or application for amendment of such Notifications of Registration and/or Registration Statements, and any Prospectuses, exhibits, financial statements, schedules or any other documents filed therewith, and to file the same with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and the undersigned does hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. Any one of said agents and attorneys-in-fact shall have, and may exercise, without the others, all the powers hereby conferred.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has duly executed and delivered this power of attorney as of this 29th day of April, 2005.

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/s/ CANDACE E. BROWNING

 Candace E. Browning

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MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED

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and any requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with the registration under said Acts of (i) units of fractional undivided interest in one or more series of Corporate Income Fund; Defined Asset Funds; Equity Investor Fund; The Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities Fund; Government Securities Income Fund; The Merrill Lynch Fund of Stripped ("Zero") U.S. Treasury Securities; Municipal Investment Trust Fund or any other unit investment trust fund (or other unit based investment vehicles not involving active management) established in accordance with the Investment Company Act of 1940 for which the Corporation, alone or with others, will act as Depositor or Sponsor and/or Underwriter, and (ii) the aforesaid trusts, including specifically power and authority to sign his name to any and all Notifications of Registration and/or Registration Statements to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under either of the said Acts in respect to such units and trusts, any amendment (including post-effective amendment) or application for amendment of such Notifications of Registration and/or Registration Statements, and any Prospectuses, exhibits, financial statements, schedules or any other documents filed therewith, and to file the same with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and the undersigned does hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. Any one of said agents and attorneys-in-fact shall have, and may exercise, without the others, all the powers hereby conferred.

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/s/ JAMES P. GORMAN

James P. Gorman

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/s/ CARLOS M. MORALES

Carlos M. Morales

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