CRITTENDEN GARY L
Form 4
January 26, 2005

FORM 4

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

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

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).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
CRITTENDEN GARY L

(Last) (First) (Middle)

AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER, 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER

(Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/24/2005

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Member, Global Leadership Team

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
_X_ 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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Shares	01/24/2005	01/24/2005	A(1)		8,606	A	$ 0	122,584	D	
Common Shares								160 (2)	I	By ISP Trust

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

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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 Amou Underlying Securi (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amo Num Shar
Employee stock options (right to buy)	$ 52.285	01/24/2005	01/24/2005	A		145,000		01/24/2006(3)	01/24/2015	Common Shares	145
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	12/30/2004(5)	12/30/2004	A	V	59		(6)	(6)	Common Shares (6)	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CRITTENDEN GARY L AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10285-5003			Member, Global Leadership Team	

Signatures

Gary L. Crittenden	01/26/2005
**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).

(1) Restricted stock award will vest in 4 equal annual installments (1/4 on Jan. 24th of 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively) subject to continuous employment and the Company's achievement of certain financial performance requirements during the vesting periods.

(2) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Incentive Savings Plan as of December 31, 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.

(3) These options will vest in four equal annual installments beginning on the date shown as "Date Exercisable" subject to continuous employment.

(4) The phantom stock converts into common stock on a one-for-one basis.

(5)

The reported phantom stock units were acquired under the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan on various dates during 2004 at p rices ranging from $47.87 to $56.35 per share.

(6) The units are to be settled following the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

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