U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2005

CONTACT: Bud Cummins
United States Attorney
501-340-2650

TRUCKING COMPANY PRINCIPAL SENTENCED IN PERMIT SCHEME

Little Rock – U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins, IRS-CI Special Agent in Charge Cleve Daniels, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge William C. Temple, and Chief Ronnie Burks, Arkansas Highway Police announced that Joseph Robbins was sentenced today before United States District Judge George Howard, Jr. to 18 months in prison. The sentencing was a result of a guilty plea which Robbins entered in December 2004, to a Superceding Information charging him with one count of conspiring to commit wire fraud in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 371. The Judge also ordered Robbins to pay a criminal fine of $25,000 and ordered restitution to the State of Arkansas in the amount of $105,000.

Joseph Robbins, a principal in the day-to-day operations of Robbins Motor Transport in Eddystone, Pennsylvania and other Robbins Motor Transport personnel paid Terry Nanney, Permit Supervisor for the Arkansas Highway Police Permit Section, personally in exchange for bogus permits for "superloads," oversized and overweight loads, which Robbins Motor Transport hauled through the State of Arkansas. From December 1995, through late August, 2001, the scheme deprived the State of Arkansas of $289,000 in fees for these permits.

Nanney, who previously pled guilty in 2002, has paid approximately $78, 000 in restitution.

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, and the Arkansas Highway Police.

###