



# Department of Justice

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1970

The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., with using reciprocal purchasing arrangements with customers and suppliers in violation of the Sherman Act.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the complaint and a proposed consent judgment, to become final in 30 days, were filed together in the United States District Court in Pittsburgh.

The suit charged that PPG Industries has since 1958 entered into arrangements with various suppliers to restrain trade by reciprocating purchases in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

The complaint also charged that PPG Industries has used its purchasing power since 1958 to promote sales in an attempt to monopolize the requirements of actual and potential supplier-customers for products produced by the company in violation of Section 2 of the Act.

The violations, the suit said, have had the effect of foreclosing competitors of PPG Industries from selling substantial quantities of goods to the firm's customers, and of preventing suppliers from selling goods and services to PPG Industries.

OVER

Assistant Attorney General Richard W. McLaren, head of the Antitrust Division, said the consent judgment, to be in effect for 10 years, prohibits PPG Industries from purchasing products or services from any supplier on the condition that such purchases will be based on PPG Industries' sales to the supplier.

It also prohibits PPG Industries from discussing with any supplier or contractor the relationship of purchases and sales between them or from comparing statistical data to further such a relationship. The firm is further prohibited from maintaining statistical compilations that compare sales to and purchases from suppliers.

PPG Industries is also prohibited from communicating to actual or potential suppliers or contractors that preference will be given in purchasing products or services from them based on PPG Industries' sales to them.

In addition, PPG Industries is prohibited from agreeing with any supplier that such supplier will buy from certain customers of PPG Industries in order to obtain purchases by PPG Industries from such supplier or from agreeing with any supplier that such supplier shall attempt to persuade other companies to buy from PPG Industries in order to obtain purchases by PPG Industries from such supplier.

PPG Industries is directed by the consent judgment to refrain from continuing or establishing any office or position whose activities, programs, or objectives are to promote trade relations involving reciprocal purchasing arrangements.

PPG Industries is one of the two leading domestic producers of plate glass. It is one of the leading producers of soda ash and caustic soda. It also produces a variety of other chemicals for industrial use as well as various coatings and resins and fiber glass. In 1969, PPG Industries had sales and assets of more than \$1.1 billion.