



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging the nation's second largest banana importer and a New York trucking firm with conspiring to eliminate competition in the carting of bananas in the metropolitan New York area.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the suit was filed in the United States District Court in Brooklyn, New York, against Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, New Orleans, and Ross Trucking, Inc., New York City.

The suit charged that the importer and trucker have agreed since prior to 1957 to require jobbers and supermarkets in the New York City area, as a condition of purchasing bananas from Standard, to hire Ross to cart the bananas from piers in the Port of New York to the purchasers, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Assistant Attorney General Richard W. McLaren, head of the Antitrust Division, said the agreement has precluded jobbers and supermarkets from using their own trucks or any trucking firm other than Ross to deliver bananas purchased from Standard, and has eliminated competition among trucking firms for the business of carting bananas sold by Standard to jobbers and supermarkets.

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Standard imports about 30 percent of the bananas sold to customers in the New York City area, and since 1965 Ross has carted more than 8 million boxes of Standard's bananas, having a value in excess of \$20 million, the suit said.

The suit seeks to enjoin the importer and trucker from continuing the alleged agreement, from requiring or attempting to require any jobber or supermarket to hire a designated carting company, and from preventing any jobber or supermarket from using its own trucks or any other trucker to cart bananas.