



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1971

The Department of Justice filed a civil contempt petition today charging Associated Credit Bureaus, Inc., the nation's largest credit bureau trade association, with violating a 1933 consent decree prohibiting it from acting to monopolize credit reporting services.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the petition, which asked that the respondents show cause why they should not be held in civil contempt of court, was filed in the U.S. District Court in St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition to ACB, the petition named the following ACB officials as respondents: John L. Spafford, president; William B. Price, chairman of the board; James E. Simmermon, first vice chairman of the board; Kenneth L. Hooper, second vice chairman of the board; Frank M. Blenkhorn, immediate past chairman of the board; Walter Kurth, executive vice president; T. Monty Skiles, director of industry relations; Ray Swan, regional vice president; Donald Sharp and William J. Welch, Jr., members of the board of directors; and William Henderson, midwest regional director.

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members, the most significant credit bureau group in the nation, from utilizing the inter-bureau credit reporting service of an ACB competitor, with the purpose and effect of maintaining ACB's monopoly in inter-bureau credit reporting services.

The petition asked that the respondents be directed to cease and desist from cancelling or threatening to cancel membership in ACB because of the use by a member of any other credit reporting organization. The petition also asked that a fine be imposed on ACB for each day, after further order of the court, that it fails to carry out the court's directions.