



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice filed an antitrust suit today charging a Texas grain exporting company with illegally providing exclusive stevedoring services at its grain elevator located on the Houston ship channel.

Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork said the suit, charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, was filed in the U. S. District Court in Houston, Texas.

Named as defendant was Goodpasture, Incorporated, a grain dealer headquartered in Brownfield, Texas.

The complaint alleged that since 1969 the company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Shippers Stevedoring Company, has engaged in conduct which restrains competition among stevedoring companies for the right to stevedore grain at the Goodpasture export grain elevator.

The function of a loading stevedore is to spread the grain evenly in the ship, to batten it down to minimize shifting of the cargo at sea and to segregate the various types of grain.

According to the complaint, Goodpasture has required all ship owners to enter into agreements with Goodpasture obligating them to hire Shippers Stevedoring as a condition of accepting the ship at the elevator for loading. The elevator is located at Galena Park, Texas, a Houston suburb.

The area along the Houston ship channel has become the principal grain export point in the United States, the world's leading grain exporter.

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