



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1973

AT

The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today challenging the acquisition of Pressed Steel Tank Company, Inc., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by Norris Industries, Inc., of Los Angeles, California.

At the time of the acquisition in December, 1970, Norris and Pressed Steel Tank were two of the nation's leading producers of acetylene cylinders and high-pressure compressed gas cylinders.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said that the suit, charging a violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, was filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Bruce B. Wilson, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that Pressed Steel Tank and Norris were the second and fourth largest producers of high-pressure cylinders in the United States and the only two producers of acetylene cylinder shells in the United States.

According to the complaint, Pressed Steel Tank accounted for approximately 25.8 percent of total shipments of high-pressure compressed gas cylinders in 1970 while Norris accounted for approximately 8.2 percent of shipments.

OVER

The complaint charges that the acquisition will eliminate competition between Norris and Pressed Steel Tank; lessen competition generally in the production and sale of acetylene and high pressure cylinders; and increase concentration in the market for acetylene and high-pressure cylinders.

The suit asks that the acquisition be adjudged to be in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, and that Norris be ordered to divest itself of all interest in Pressed Steel Tank Company.

Compressed gas cylinders are metal containers used to store and transport compressed and liquefiable gases such as oxygen, argon, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, acetylene and medical and refrigerant gases.

There are three major types of high-pressure compressed gas cylinders: industrial cylinders, carbon dioxide cylinders and round-bottom cylinders. High-pressure cylinders generally hold gases at service pressures of 900 pounds per square inch and above.

Acetylene cylinders are designed and manufactured to contain explosive acetylene gas. An acetylene cylinder consists of a cylinder shell to which a porous filling and liquid acetone have been added.