



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1973

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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging a Nebraska liquor wholesaler with fixing resale liquor prices in Nebraska in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Named as defendant was Ed. Phillips & Sons Co., of Omaha, Nebraska, a wholly owned subsidiary of Alco Standard Corporation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said that the complaint was filed in the U. S. District Court in Omaha, Nebraska.

Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Kauper, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that the defendant is a wholesale distributor of distilled spirits and wines to approximately 2,400 retail stores throughout Nebraska.

In 1971, Phillips sold approximately 262,889 cases of liquor which accounted for about 30 percent of all of the distilled spirits sold at wholesale in Nebraska.

The complaint charged that Phillips had conspired with its retailers to eliminate the advertisement of the brands distributed by Phillips at prices less than Phillips' suggested retail prices.

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The complaint also alleged that Phillips had refused to fill orders from retail liquor dealers until they agreed to discontinue advertising liquor distributed by Phillips at prices less than those suggested by Phillips.

The suit further charged that the effect of the defendant's activity had been to suppress competition among retailers in the sale of the brands distributed by Phillips and to restrain trade and commerce in distilled spirits and wines.

The complaint asked that the defendant be perpetually enjoined from engaging in conduct which has the purpose or effect of restraining competition between liquor retailers.