



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The Department of Justice today announced the filing of amended complaints in three cases charging newspaper feature syndicates with entering into unreasonably broad exclusive territorial agreements in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said that the original complaints were filed on November 21, 1967, in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Kauper, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that the purpose of the amended complaints was to name an additional defendant--the Globe Newspaper Company, which publishes the Boston Globe--in each of the three cases.

The original defendants were the Hearst Corporation, which distributes features through its King Feature Syndicate Division; Field Enterprises, Inc., which distributes features through its Publishers Hall Division; and the Chicago-Tribune/New York News Syndicate, Inc.

Each firm, the complaints said, has contracts with newspapers which violate the restraint-of-trade section of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

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The suits allege that when a syndicate sells a feature to a newspaper, it agrees not to sell the same item to "any other newspaper published within an arbitrary and unreasonably broad territory surrounding the contracting newspaper's city of publication."

Filing of the amended complaints was made necessary by a decision of the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, where the cases are pending, that "the participation of (licensee) newspapers as parties is essential to a fair adjudication."

While the original complaints challenged generally the legality of exclusive territorial agreements between each of the defendant syndicates and all of its newspaper customers, the amended complaints limit the Government's claims, for the present, to agreements between each defendant syndicate and the Globe Newspaper Company.

The material sold by the syndicates includes comic strips, sports and political columns, cross-word puzzles, recipes, horoscopes, advice, and bridge tips.