



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A federal antitrust grand jury in Brooklyn, New York, today indicted 10 corporations and four of their officers on charges of conspiring to fix the price of perchloroethylene, a common dry cleaning fluid.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said the indictment and companion civil complaint, both charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, were filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.

Named as defendants in the indictment were:

- Kliegman Bros., Inc. of Brooklyn; Leonard Kliegman, President; and Victor A. Shulimson, Secretary and Treasurer;
- West Side Corp. of Queens, New York; Norman Rich, Vice President; and Sheldon F. Schiff, Secretary and Treasurer;
- Diamond Chemical Company, Inc. of Bayonne, New Jersey;
- Cleaners Sales & Equipment Corp. of Brooklyn;
- American Chemical & Supply Company, Inc. of Newark, New Jersey;
- Dixo Company, Inc. of Rochelle Park, New Jersey;
- Mindich Enterprises, Inc. which does business as L & L Distributors of Haverstraw, New York;
- Perk Chemical Co., Inc. of Elizabeth, New Jersey;
- Poles Supply Company, Inc. of Newark, New Jersey; and
- Pride Solvents & Chemical Co., Inc. of West Babylon, New York.

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The civil complaint names the 10 corporations as defendants.

Assistant Attorney General Donald I. Baker, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the indictment and civil complaint both charge the defendants with conspiring to fix the price of perchloroethylene, known in the trade as perc, from late 1973 until November, 1974.

Perc is a clear, non-flammable liquid sold to dry cleaners, laundries, textile mills and other industrial users. The corporate defendants, all perc wholesalers, had combined perc sales of about \$9 million in 1974, for a total share of over 80 percent of the Metropolitan New York-New Jersey market.

According to the indictment, the conspiracy had the effect of raising perc prices and depriving customers of the opportunity to obtain perc at competitive levels.

The maximum penalty upon conviction of a corporation is a \$50,000 fine, and for an individual defendant, the maximum penalty is a \$50,000 fine and one year in prison.

The civil complaint requests the court to enjoin the defendants from continuing or renewing the conspiracy to fix perc prices.

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