



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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A federal grand jury in Lubbock, Texas, today indicted four local package liquor retailers and three of their officers and employees on charges of conspiring to fix prices in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Also named as a defendant was the local retailers trade association.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said the indictment and a companion civil suit were filed in U.S. District Court in Lubbock, Texas.

Named as defendants in the indictment were:

- Lubbock County Beverage Association;
- Cecil's, Inc., of Lubbock, its president, Hubert Odom, and its secretary-treasurer, Kenneth F. Odom;
- Crossed Keys Package Store, Inc., of Lubbock;
- Pinkie's, Inc., of Odessa, Texas, and its Lubbock division manager, Bob J. Grimes; and
- The All Star Company, of Lubbock.

The civil suit named only the four companies and the association.

Assistant Attorney General Donald I. Baker, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that the indictment and the civil suit charged that the defendants conspired from March 1967 until some time prior to December of 1974 to raise, fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of alcoholic beverages sold in Lubbock County.

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The indictment and complaint charged that as a result of the conspiracy:

- competition among the defendants and other retailers of alcoholic beverages in Lubbock County has been suppressed;
- prices of alcoholic beverages have been raised and maintained at artificial and noncompetitive levels; and
- buyers of such beverages have been deprived of the opportunity to purchase the beverages at competitive prices.

According to the indictment, the corporate defendants did about \$8 million in business in Lubbock County in 1975.

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

The civil suit asks that the companies be permanently enjoined from reviving the alleged price fixing scheme, and from engaging in any practices having a similar purpose or effect.

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