



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A federal grand jury in Miami today indicted six Florida portable toilet companies, two individuals, and their local trade association for conspiring to fix the rental price for portable outdoor toilets in South Florida.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said the felony indictment and a companion civil suit -- both charging violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act -- were filed in the U. S. District Court in Miami.

Named as defendants in the indictment were:

- Florida Portable Sanitation Association.
- Able Building Industries, Inc., Dade County, Florida.
- Independent Portable Sanitation, Inc., Dade County, Florida.
- J & M Scaffolds of Florida, Inc., Dade County, Florida.
- Jiffy Johns, Inc., Broward County, Florida, and its president, Robert Sweitzer.
- Port-O-Let Company, Inc., Duval County, Florida.
- Port-O-San International, Inc., Dade County, Florida.
- James F. Haas III, proprietor of AAA Portable Toilet Rentals.

Portable toilets are typically owned by individuals and firms that rent them to building contractors and others in need of temporary sanitation facilities.

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During 1975, according to the indictment, the corporate defendants received more than half a million dollars from the rental of portable toilets.

Assistant Attorney General Donald I. Baker, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the indictment charged the defendants with combining and conspiring to raise, fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices they charge for the rental of portable toilets.

Mr. Baker said that this case was investigated by the office of Robert W. Rust, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Mr. Rust's office, which was assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will also prosecute the case.

The civil suit also names as a defendant Michael Olin, proprietor of National Mobile Office Brokers, Broward County. That suit asks that the defendants be permanently enjoined from continuing the alleged price-fixing scheme and from engaging in any practice having a similar purpose and effect.

The maximum penalty upon conviction of a corporation is a one-million-dollar fine, and the maximum penalty upon conviction of an individual is a \$100,000 fine and three years in prison.

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