



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice yesterday filed a civil antitrust suit challenging the 1979 acquisition of Aluminum Plumbing Fixture Corporation of Burlingame, California, by Acorn Engineering Company of City of Industry, California.

Before the acquisition, Aluminum Plumbing Fixture Corp. and Acorn Engineering Co. were the two principal U.S. producers of heavy-gauge stainless steel plumbing fixtures, such as toilets and wash basins, for use in prisons. Prisons use the heavy-gauge stainless steel fixtures because they are damage resistant.

The complaint also names as defendants Pott Industries Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, and its parent, Houston Natural Gas Corporation of Houston, Texas. Pott Industries Inc. sold the stock of Aluminum Plumbing Fixture Corp. to Acorn Engineering Co.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the suit was filed on Tuesday, August 19, 1980 in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that the complaint alleges that the transaction violates Section 7 of the Clayton Act and asks that Acorn Engineering Co. divest itself of Aluminum Plumbing Fixture Corp.

The complaint alleges that as a result of the acquisition, competition between Acorn Engineering Co. and Aluminum Plumbing Fixture Corp. has been eliminated and that Acorn Engineering Co. has acquired monopoly power.