



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1980

AT
202-633-2014

A federal grand jury in Boston, Massachusetts, today returned a felony indictment charging five corporations and three individuals with conspiring to fix and stabilize the prices of standard screws sold to distributors throughout the United States.

Acting Attorney General John M. Harmon said the indictment and a companion civil suit, both charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, were filed in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Named as defendants in the felony indictment were:

- Amtel Inc., Providence, Rhode Island, and Arthur D. Bancroft, president of its Continental Screw Division;
- Elco Industries Inc., Rockford, Illinois and John P. Kasper, its chairman of the board;
- NL Industries Inc., New York, New York;
- Reed & Prince Manufacturing Company, Worcester, Massachusetts, and Daniel B. Richardson Sr., its chief executive officer;
- Textron Inc., Providence.

Richard J. Favretto, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division, said the indictment charges that, beginning as early as 1957 and continuing until 1977, the defendants and co-conspirators conspired to fix the prices of standard screws and the discounts allowed from those prices.

The total sales of standard screws by the defendant corporations during the period covered by the indictment exceeded \$1 billion.

(MORE)

Standard screws are usually produced to a standardized, published specification. They include wood, machine and tapping screws. These screws are sold to customers through retail outlets such as hardware stores that purchase them from various types of distributors.

The maximum penalty upon conviction under the Sherman Act is a fine of \$1 million for a corporation and a fine of \$100,000 and three years imprisonment for an individual.

The companion civil suit names the five indicted corporations as defendants and seeks injunctive relief based on the same allegations charged in the indictment.

#