



Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice today filed an antitrust suit alleging that Central Contracting Company, Inc., of Farmville, Virginia, conspired in 1978 to rig bids on taxiway construction at Richmond's Richard E. Byrd International Airport.

Attorney General William French Smith said the civil complaint--charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act--was filed in U.S. District Court in Richmond, Virginia.

After filing the suit, the Department filed a proposed consent decree that would--if approved by the court--terminate the suit.

William F. Baxter, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the proposed consent decree would enjoin Central from fixing prices, rigging bids or allocating customers or territories for asphalt or concrete paving services.

Baxter said the suit alleged the same conspiracy charged in an indictment returned against the firm in Richmond on February 29, 1980. The company pleaded guilty and was fined \$125,000.

In accordance with the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act of 1974, a competitive impact statement regarding the proposed consent decree has been filed with the court. Copies of this statement and of the proposed decree are available on request in the Legal Procedure Unit, Room 7416, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530. They also are available for inspection in the Office of the Clerk, United States District Court, Richmond, Virginia.

(MORE)

Comments to the Department and to the court regarding the decree are invited from members of the public within the statutory 60-day time period. They should be directed to Anthony V. Nanni, Chief, Trial Section, Room 3266, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530.

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