



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AT
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A federal grand jury in Brooklyn, New York, today indicted six wholesale distributors of liquor and wine on charges of conspiring to fix the wholesale prices of liquor and wine in Metropolitan New York.

The defendants are the six major wholesale distributors of liquor and wine in New York City and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties. They sell liquor and wine to retail liquor and wine stores, taverns, restaurants, hotels, clubs and caterers. Their combined annual dollar sales of liquor and wine in 1979 were over \$700 million.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the felony indictment, which charges a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, along with a companion civil suit, were filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, New York.

Named as defendants in the indictment were:

- Charmer Industries Inc., Queens, New York;
- Star Industries Inc., Syosset, New York;
- Peerless Importers Inc., Brooklyn, New York;
- Capitol Distributors Corp., Queens;
- Knickerbocker Liquors Corporation, Syosset; and
- Standard Wine & Liquor Co., Inc., Queens.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the indictment charged that, beginning in late 1978 and continuing until at least July, 1979, the defendants and various co-conspirators agreed to raise and fix the wholesale prices of liquor and to reduce discounts on liquor and wine.

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The civil suit also names the six indicted corporations. It seeks injunctive relief based on the same allegations as those in the indictment.

The maximum penalty for each corporation upon conviction of the charge in the indictment is a fine of \$1 million.

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