



# Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice today filed a civil suit against five producers of titanium mill products, seeking to recover damages for overcharges resulting from an alleged price-fixing conspiracy.

Named as defendants in the damage action are Titanium Metals Corporation of America, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; RMI Company, Niles, Ohio; Lawrence Aviation Industries, Inc., Port Jefferson Station, New York; Crucible, Inc., Robinson Township, Pennsylvania; and Martin Marietta Aluminum, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland.

William F. Baxter, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the two-count suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, New York. It charged that beginning in 1970 and continuing until sometime in 1976, the defendants engaged in a conspiracy to fix the prices of titanium mill products.

Baxter said the complaint was based on the same activities for which RMI Company, Lawrence Aviation Industries, Crucible, and Martin Marietta had been indicted in 1978.

All four companies entered no contest pleas in the criminal proceedings. Company and individual fines totaled \$1,242,500.

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Of five individuals indicted, four pled no contest and one pled guilty. Prison terms totaling 15 years were imposed, with all but 195 days suspended.

The damage complaint alleges that the United States is a purchaser of titanium mill products and of products containing titanium mill products, such as military aircraft and aircraft engines.

Count One of the complaint, brought under the Clayton Act, asks for damages resulting from the conspiracy, which was alleged to violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Count Two, brought under the False Claims Act, charges that the defendants presented or caused to be presented to the government claims that, as a result of the price-fixing conspiracy, were false or fraudulent, and seeks double damages and forfeitures of \$2,000 for each offense as an alternative to Clayton Act damages. The amount of damages was unspecified.

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