



# Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit challenging the proposed acquisition of Means Services, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois by ARA Services, Inc., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Attorney General William French Smith said the suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, Ohio.

Both companies provide textile rental services. Textile rental services consist of the rental and laundering of a variety of textile items for commercial, industrial and institutional customers. These items include work garments, linen items, and dust control and other items.

The complaint alleges that the transaction would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, which prohibits anticompetitive mergers. It asks that the parties be enjoined from consummating the proposed acquisition pending trial of the case.

William F. Baxter, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the suit alleges that the proposed acquisition would eliminate competition between ARA and Means and increase concentration in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, Ohio area; the Columbus, Ohio area; and the Southern West Virginia-Eastern Kentucky area.

ARA, the second largest textile rental services company in the United States, operates 57 processing plants in the Midwest, California, Texas, Florida and the East Coast.

(MORE)

Means, the largest textile rental services company in the Midwest, operates 27 processing plants in 23 cities located in 18 states.

In the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain Standard Consolidated Statistical Area in 1981, ARA's sales of textile rental services were approximately \$7.5 million and accounted for approximately 18.6 percent of the market; Means' sales of textile rental services were approximately \$2.7 million and accounted for approximately 6.6 percent of the market. In the Columbus Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area in 1981, ARA had sales of textile rental services of approximately \$2.9 million and accounted for approximately 15.5 percent of the market, while Means had sales of approximately \$1.7 million and accounted for approximately 9.3 percent of the market. In the Southern West Virginia-Eastern Kentucky area, ARA had textile rental services sales of approximately \$3.5 million and accounted for approximately 18.2 percent of the market in 1981, while Means had sales of approximately \$5.8 million and accounted for approximately 30.2 percent of the market.

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