



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1984

AT  
202-633-2016

The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit charging the largest motor carrier rate bureau in the country -- the Rocky Mountain Motor Tariff Bureau, Inc. -- with price fixing of trucking freight rates.

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

Assistant Attorney General J. Paul McGrath said that rate bureaus promulgate tariffs and provide other services for the trucking firms that make up their members. Rates charged customers can be fixed legally for commodities subject to Interstate Commerce Commission jurisdiction. But many commodities, including certain agricultural, forest and seafood products, fall outside that jurisdiction and when rate bureaus set rates for them they become subject to charges of price-fixing, McGrath said.

The Bureau has members from 43 states and Canada, and operates throughout most of the United States.

Although the suit did not specify any area or commodity, it alleged that, beginning as early as July 1980 and continuing through at least 1983, the Bureau engaged in a combination and conspiracy with its member motor carriers to fix rates for transporting commodities not subject to I.C.C. jurisdiction.

(MORE)

The rates were voted on by the Bureau's rate committees, which are made up of representatives of member motor carriers, according to the suit, and were included in tariffs -- lists of rates -- filed with the I.C.C.

The complaint asks for an injunction prohibiting the continuation or renewal of the conspiracy.

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