



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*John G. McKenzie
Assistant U.S. Attorney*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

July 19, 2005

NAPERVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR BRIBERY IN CONNECTION WITH UNION PENSION AND HEALTH AND WELFARE PLANS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, GORDON S. HEDDELL, Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor, JAMES VANDERBERG, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Region of the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and KENNETH M. BAZAR, Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the United States Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford today indicted **MICHAEL J. BRDECKA**, 60, (DOB: 12/21/1944), of Naperville, for bribery and graft in connection with two union local pension plans and two union local health and welfare plans.

The indictment alleges that Brdecka paid \$9,700 to the president of a third-party administrator of the pension plans of the Ironworkers Local 498 located in Rockford and of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 218(S) located in Springfield, and of the health and welfare plans of Machinery Movers Local 136 located in River Grove and of the Ironworkers Local 465 located in Kankakee. The indictment alleges Brdecka paid the \$9,700 with the intent to influence the recipient's actions and decisions concerning those pension and health and welfare plans. If convicted, Brdecka faces up to six years of imprisonment and a total fine of \$500,000.

The arraignment has been set for Tuesday, July 26, 2005 at 11:15 a.m. before Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney in the federal courthouse in Rockford. The case was investigated by the Chicago offices of the Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and Employee Benefits Security Administration. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. MCKENZIE.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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