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FILED

JUN 24 2010

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 BY _____ DEPUTY CLERK

11
 12 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 13 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

2:10 - CR - 0239 WBS

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	No.
)	
16 Plaintiff,)	VIOLATION: 15 U.S.C. § 1 - Bid
)	Rigging
17 v.)	
)	
18 JOHN R. VANZETTI,)	
)	
19 Defendant.)	
)	

21 I N F O R M A T I O N

22 The United States Attorney charges

23 JOHN R. VANZETTI

24 defendant herein, as follows:

- 25
- 26 1. Beginning in or about April 2009 and continuing until in or
 27 about October 2009, the defendant JOHN R. VANZETTI and co-

1 conspirators entered into and engaged in a combination and
2 conspiracy to suppress and restrain competition by rigging bids to
3 obtain selected real estate offered at San Joaquin County,
4 California public real estate auctions in the Eastern District of
5 California, in unreasonable restraint of interstate trade and
6 commerce, in violation of the Sherman Act, Title 15, United States
7 Code, Section 1.
8

9 2. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a
10 continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among the
11 defendant and coconspirators, the substantial terms of which were:

12 a. to suppress competition by agreeing to refrain from
13 full competitive bidding against each other to obtain selected real
14 estate offered at San Joaquin County, California public real estate
15 auctions;

16 b. to make payoffs to one another in return for
17 suppressing competition for the selected real estate offered at the
18 public real estate auctions; and

19 c. to obtain title to real estate sold at
20 noncompetitive, rigged prices.
21

22 3. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged
23 combination and conspiracy, the defendant and co-conspirators did
24 those things that they combined and conspired to do, including,
25 among other things:

26 a. agreeing, during meetings, conversations, and
27 communications, to rig bids to obtain selected real estate offered
28

1 at San Joaquin County, California public real estate auctions;

2 b. designating, in various ways, which conspirator would
3 bid for the selected real estate at the public real estate auctions
4 for the group of conspirators;

5 c. bidding at reduced, noncompetitive amounts or
6 refraining from bidding for the selected real estate at the public
7 real estate auctions;

8 d. in many instances, holding secret auctions, open only
9 to members of the conspiracy, to rebid for the selected real estate
10 obtained at the public real estate auctions;

11 e. awarding properties to the conspirators who submitted
12 the highest bids at the secret auctions; and

13 f. distributing the proceeds of the secret auctions as
14 payoffs, based upon a predetermined formula agreed upon by the
15 members of the conspiracy.
16

17
18 4. Various corporations and individuals, not made defendants
19 in this Information, participated as coconspirators in the offense
20 charged in this Information and performed acts and made statements
21 in furtherance of it.

22 5. During the period covered by this Information, the business
23 activities of the defendant and coconspirators that are the subject
24 of this Information were within the flow of, and substantially
25 affected, interstate trade and commerce. For example, mortgage
26 holders located in states other than California held mortgages,
27 appointed trustees, and received proceeds from the public auctions
28

1 that were subject to the bid-rigging agreement.

2 All in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 1.
3

4 Dated:

Respectfully Submitted,

5

Benjamin B. Wagner
United States Attorney

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By: /s/ ROBIN R. TAYLOR

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Christine A. Varney
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