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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NORTHWEST COLLISION CONSULTANTS,

Defendant.

Civil No. C75-837V

Filed: July 29, 1977

Entered: Oct. 31, 1977

STIPULATION

It is stipulated by and between the undersigned parties, plaintiff United States of America, and defendant, Northwest Collision Consultants, by their respective attorneys, that:

- 1. The parties consent that a final judgment in the form hereto attached may be filed and entered by the Court upon the motion of either party or upon the Court's own motion, at any time after compliance with the requirements of the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act [15 U.S.C. §16] and without further notice to any party or other proceedings, provided that plaintiff has not withdrawn its consent which it may do at any time before the entry of the proposed final judgment by serving notice thereof on defendant and by filing that notice with the Court.
- 2. In the event plaintiff withdraws its consent or if the proposed Final Judgment is not entered pursuant to this

1 Stipulation, this Stipulation shall be of no effect whatever 2 and the making of this Stipulation shall be without prejudice 3 to plaintiff and defendant in this or any other proceeding. Dated: July 29, 1977 6 FOR THE PLAINTIFF 8 SHENEFIELD, Acting JOHN 9 Assistant Attorney General 10 11 CHRISTOPHER, S 12 13 14 J. LUDV Attorneys, Department of 15 Justice 16 /s/ Anthony E. Desmond ANTHONY E. DESMOND 17 Attorneys, Department of Justice 18 19 FOR THE DEFENDANT 20 Kane, Vandeberg & Hartinger Washington Plaza Building One Washington Plaza, Suite 2100 21 Tacoma, Washington 402 22 23 24 WALKER for Defendant torney **25** 26 27 28 29 30

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NORTHWEST COLLISION CONSULTANTS,

Defendant.

Civil No. C75-837V

FINAL JUDGMENT

Filed: July 29, 1977

Entered: Oct. 31, 1977

Plaintiff, United States of America, having filed its complaint herein on December 3, 1975, and defendant, Northwest Collision Consultants, having appeared by its counsel, and both parties by their respective attorneys having consented to the making and entry of this Final Judgment without admission by any party in respect to any issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, before any testimony has been taken herein, without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein, and upon consent of the parties hereto, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, as follows:

This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and of the parties hereto. The complaint states claims upon which relief may be granted against the defendant under Section I of the Act of Congress of July 2, 1890, as amended (15 U.S.C. §1), commonly known as the Sherman Act.

II

As used in this Final Judgment:

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- (A) "Defendant" means defendant Northwest Collision Consultants;
- (B) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, firm, or any other business or legal entity;
- (C) "Parts" means any portion of an automobile except the engine and its components;
- (D) "Body repair job" means the application of new or used parts and labor to the damaged bodies of automobiles for the purpose of repairing them;
- (E) "Hourly rate" means the time charge applied to the length of time that each body repair job requires; and
- (F) "Body repair shop" means any person engaged in the performance and sale of a body repair job.

III

The provisions of this Final Judgment shall apply to the defendant and to each of its officers, directors, agents, employees, members, chapters, successors and assigns, and to all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise.

IV

Defendant is enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly:

(A) Entering into, adhering to, maintaining, or furthering any contract, agreement, understanding, plan, or program, to fix, establish, or maintain (1) prices charged by

body repair shops in the performance and sale of body repair jobs, (2) prices, discounts, markups, or other terms or conditions at which new or used parts are sold by body repair shops, (3) hourly rates charged by body repair shops, or (4) profit margins utilized by body repair shops;

- (B) Advocating, suggesting, urging, inducing, compelling, or in any other manner influencing or attempting to influence any person to use or adhere to (1) any price to be charged by a body repair shop in the performance and sale of a body repair job, (2) any price, discount, markup, or other term or condition at which new or used parts are to be sold by a body repair shop, (3) any hourly rate to be charged by a body repair shop, or (4) any profit margin to be utilized by a body repair shop;
- (C) Policing, urging, coercing, influencing, or attempting to influence in any manner any body repair shop or any other person, or devising or putting into effect any procedure (including but not limited to picketing) the effect of which is to fix, maintain, or stabilize (1) prices to be charged by a body repair shop in the performance and sale of a body repair job, (2) any price, discount, markup, or other term or condition at which new or used parts are to be sold by a body repair shop, (3) any hourly rate to be charged by a body repair shop, or (4) any profit margin to be utilized by a body repair shop; and
- (D) Entering into, adhering to, maintaining or furthering, any contract, agreement, understanding, plan or program with any other person not to accept or attempt to obtain any body repair job.

V

Defendant is ordered and directed:

(A) Within 60 days after entry of this Final Judgment to

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serve a copy of this Final Judgment together with a letter identical in text to that attached to this Final Judgment as Appendix A, upon each of those persons who are or have been officers or members of defendant at any time since January 1, 1974;

- (B) To serve a copy of this Final Judgment together with a letter identical in text to that attached to this Final Judgment as Appendix A, upon all of its future members at such time as they become members;
- (C) To collect from its members and hold until further order of the Court any printed or written materials distributed by defendant, including but not limited to the document entitled "Projected Operating Costs," and without regard to whether said materials are filled out or blank, which refer in any manner to (1) any price charged or to be charged by a body repair shop in the performance and sale of a body repair job, (2) any price, discount, markup, or other term or condition at which new or used parts are sold or are to be sold by a body repair shop, (3) any hourly rate charged or to be charged by a body repair shop, (4) any profit margin utilized or to be utilized by a body repair shop, or (5) any cost of doing business as a body repair shop; and
- (D) To file with this Court and serve upon the plaintiff within sixty (60) days after the date of entry of this Final Judgment an affidavit as to the fact and manner of compliance with subsections A and C of this Section V.

VI

(A) For the purpose of determining or securing compliance with this Final Judgment, and for no other purpose, any duly authorized representative of the Department of Justice shall, upon written request of the Attorney General or the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust

Division, and on reasonable notice to defendant made to its principal office, be permitted, subject to any legally recognized privilege:

- (1) Access during the office hours of defendant to all books, ledgers, accounts, correspondence, memoranda, and other records and documents, in the possession or under the control of defendant, relating to any matters contained in this Final Judgment; and
- (2) Subject to the reasonable convenience of defendant and without restraint of interference from it, to interview officers, directors, agents, partners, members, or employees of defendant, who may have counsel present, regarding any such matters.
- (B) Defendant, upon the written request of the Attorney General or the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, shall submit such reports in writing with respect to any of the matters contained in this Final Judgment as may from time to time be requested.

No information obtained by the means provided in this Section VI shall be divulged by any representative of the Department of Justice to any person other than a duly authorized representative of the Executive Branch of the United States, except in the course of legal proceedings to which the United States is a party, or for the purpose of securing compliance with this Final Judgment, or as otherwise required by law.

VII

Jurisdiction is retained by this Court for the purpose of enabling any of the parties to this Final Judgment to apply to this Court at any time for such further orders and

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directions as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction or carrying out of this Final Judgment, for the modification of any of the provisions hereof, for the enforcement of compliance therewith, and for the punishment of violations thereof.

VIII

Entry of this Final Judgment is in the public interest.

Dated: October 31, 1977

/s/ DONALD S. VOORHEES United States District Judge

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APPENDIX A

Final Judgment in United States v. Northwest Re: Collision Consultants, Civil No. C75-837V

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a Final Judgment entered , 1977 in United States v. Northwest Collision Consultants, Civil No. C75-837V. The terms of the Final Judgment require that a copy of said Judgment as well as this letter be served upon you. You should read the terms of the Final Judgment carefully and note that you as a member of the association are bound by its provisions. The purpose of this letter is to enable you to better understand those provisions.

The essence and intent of the Final Judgment is that you should make your own pricing and profit decisions without consulting with any other body repair shop or organization of body repair shops. These decisions include not only the total cost or bottom line figure of body repair jobs, but also the cost of parts (including whether or not some discount is given), hourly rates, and profit margins. It is, for example, illegal and a violation of the terms of the Final Judgment to attempt to influence another person to utilize a particular margin in his body repair business. In this connection, you are directed to immediately return to this office all copies in your possession of any "Projected Operating Costs" sheets, whether or not these sheets have been filled out, and any other materials you have relating to the cost of doing business which have been distributed by this office.

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