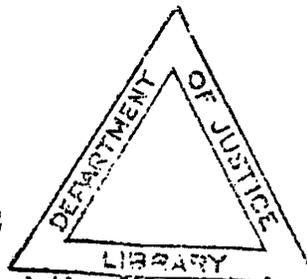


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1949



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General J. Howard McGrath announced the filing today in the Federal Court in San Francisco of a civil antitrust action to put an end to practices which have eliminated price competition among the wholesalers of plumbing supplies in the Northern California area.

The complaint names as defendants the Northern California Plumbing and Heating Wholesalers Association, its secretary, 16 of its member companies and George W. Lysaght as owner of the Current Price Bureau.

The complaint charges that the Association has been the medium through which its members have agreed to fix prices on plumbing supplies sold in the Northern California area and to follow the prices contained in two price books published by George W. Lysaght, doing business as the Current Price Bureau, of San Francisco, California. It is based on the same charges contained in an indictment returned in June 1949 against the Northern California Plumbing and Heating Wholesalers Association and the sixteen member companies named as defendants in this action.

The suit seeks dissolution of the Association and an injunction against the further issuance of the defendant Lysaght's price books. An injunction against further collusive action by the defendants is also sought.

In announcing the filing of this action, the Attorney General said: "In view of the nature of the charges involved the Department deemed it advisable to proceed under the civil as well as the criminal provisions of the Sherman Act. Only by so doing could we accomplish permanent good in the public interest."

Herbert A. Bergson, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said: "As a result of the agreement between wholesalers to utilize the prices contained in the price books of the Current Price Bureau, the wholesale prices of plumbing supplies have been uniform and arbitrary. This suit seeks to eliminate the use of such price books as an instrumentality for fixing and stabilizing prices."

In addition to the Northern California Plumbing and Heating Wholesalers Association the following are named as defendants:

George W. Lysaght, owner of the Current Price Bureau,
San Francisco, California

John E. Heaslett, secretary of the Association, San Francisco,
California

Coast Pipe & Supply Company, San Francisco, California

Crane Co., Chicago, Illinois

Dallman Company, San Francisco, California

Dalziel Plumbing Supplies, San Francisco, California

Delta Pipe & Supply Company, Stockton, California

Grinnell Company of the Pacific, San Francisco, California

Heieck & Moran (Oakland), Oakland, California

Heieck & Moran (Sacramento), Sacramento, California

Heieck & Moran (San Francisco), San Francisco, California

P. E. O'Hair & Co., San Francisco, California

Pacific Can Company, San Francisco, California

Slakey Bros., Inc., Sacramento, California

Thomas F. Smith, Inc., San Francisco, California

Tay-Holbrook, Inc., San Francisco, California

Western Plumbing Supply Co., Ltd., San Jose, California

Ralph Olsen, of San Francisco, California, a partner in
the firm of Olsen & Heffernan

In charge of the case was Wallace Howland, Chief of the
San Francisco Office of the Antitrust Division, assisted by George W.
Jansen and John M. McKenna, all working under the general supervision
of Edward P. Hodges, Chief of the Trial Section of the Antitrust Division.