

From: Thomas Bender [mailto:tb[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 10:35 AM
To: Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]
Subject: Amazon Suite

Dear John Read,

As a historian of the United States, I find the logic of this anti-trust charge against the *publishers* quite at variance with the anti-trust tradition of the United States, going back to the Jacksonian period of our history. The objection was always to monopolization of the market by an overlarge and powerful economic actor. Although as a government agency, this was the underlying logic of Jackson's bank veto and, in a private example, the Charles River Bridge case. (It was also the issue in the B&O Railroad and C&O Canal decision in the Chancery Court of Maryland at the same time. The idea was that our society flourished with a maximum number of economic actors.

That was also the case in more modern times with the breakup of Standard Oil and AT and T. Amazon is the equivalent of ATT and Standard Oil. They publishers are not, even a group that may or may not have discussed a common strategy. The nearest thing to Standard Oil, not only in structure but also in ruthlessness, is Amazon. The suit is pointing toward the wrong target.

Thomas Bender

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