

Art Metal One Of Nine Facing Federal Action

BUFFALO (AP)—The Federal Government yesterday sought a permanent injunction in U.S. District Court against nine manufacturers of metal office furniture to enjoin them from continuing alleged violations of Federal anti-trust laws.

Eight firms were indicted by a federal grand jury here Dec. 7 on charges of conspiracy to fix prices and eliminate competition in the metal office furniture industry.

The court was asked yesterday to enjoin the companies from suppressing competition by the allocating of customers, fixing of prices, submitting of rigged bids to governmental purchasers, exchanging of information about bids and prices, maintaining of special customer zones and charging extra for special colors in furniture.

The government also asked the court to direct the companies to replace present price schedules with new schedules within 60 days of a final judgment in the case.

Named as defendants in the complaints were Sperry-Rand Corporation, New York City; Art Metal Inc., Jamestown; Yawman & Erbe Manufacturing Co., Rochester; General Fireproofing Co., Youngstown, O.; Globe-Wernicke Co., Norwood, O.; Shaw-Walker Co., Muskegon, Mich.; Steelcase Inc., Grand Rapids, Mich.; and All-Steel Equipment Inc., Aurora, Ill.

The companies will have 20 days in which to answer the civil complaints.