

# Art Metal, Seven Other Companies Plead Innocent

BUFFALO (AP)—Eight manufacturers of metal office furniture pleaded innocent in federal district court today to charges of conspiracy to fix prices in the \$210 million-a-year industry.

The companies were indicted by a federal grand jury here Dec. 7, of conspiring to eliminate competition as well as the alleged price fixing.

The probe of the office furniture industry was launched in 1959 when records of 27 leading manufacturers and distributors of furniture were subpoenaed.

The Sperry Rand Corp. of New York pleaded innocent to three counts of the indictment and the Shaw-Walker Co. of Muskegon, Mich., pleaded innocent to two counts. Pleading innocent to one count each were the Art Metal Inc., Jamestown; Yawman and Erbe Manufacturing Co. of Rochester; the General Fireproofing Co., of Youngstown, Ohio; the Globe-Wernicke Co., of Norwood, Ohio; The Steelcase Inc., of Grand Rapids, Mich., and the All-Steel Equipment of Aurora, Ill.