

Complaint

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It is further ordered, That the respondent shall, within sixty (60) days after service upon it of this order, file with the Commission a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which it has complied with the order to cease and desist contained in the aforesaid initial decision.

IN THE MATTER OF

ROPER GROWERS COOPERATIVE

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SEC. 2(c)
OF THE CLAYTON ACT

Docket 8018. Complaint, June 27, 1960—Decision, May 19, 1961

Consent order requiring a packer of citrus fruit in Winter Garden, Fla., to cease violating Sec. 2(c) of the Clayton Act by paying brokerage, or its equivalent, to customers making purchases for their own accounts for resale.

COMPLAINT

The Federal Trade Commission, having reason to believe that the party respondent named in the caption hereof, and hereinafter more particularly described, has been and is now violating the provisions of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Clayton Act, as amended (U.S.C. Title 15, Section 13), hereby issues its complaint, stating its charges with respect thereto as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Roper Growers Corporation is a corporation organized, existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Florida, with its office and principal place of business located at Winter Garden, Florida, with mailing address as Post Office Box 218, Winter Garden, Florida.

PAR. 2. Respondent is now and for the past several years has been engaged in the business of packing, selling, and distributing citrus fruit, such as oranges, tangerines, and grapefruit, all of which are hereinafter sometimes referred to as citrus fruit or fruit products. Respondent sells and distributes its citrus fruit through brokers, as well as direct, to customers located in many sections of the United States. When brokers are utilized in making sales for it, the respondent pays them for their services a brokerage or commission, usually at the rate of 10 cents per 1⅓ bushel box. Respondent's annual volume of business in the sale and distribution of citrus fruit is substantial.

PAR. 3. In the course and conduct of its business over the past several years, respondent has sold and distributed and is now selling

and distributing its citrus fruit in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the aforesaid Clayton Act, as amended, to buyers located in the several states of the United States other than the State of Florida in which respondent is located. Respondent transports or causes such citrus fruit, when sold, to be transported from its place of business or packing plant in the State of Florida, or from other places within the state, to such buyers or to the buyers' customers located in various other states of the United States. In many instances respondent sells to brokers or buyers located in the State of Florida, but ships or causes the citrus fruit or fruit products to be shipped to the buyers' customers located outside of said state. Thus, there has been at all times mentioned herein a continuous course of trade in commerce in said citrus fruit across state lines between said respondent and the respective buyers of such fruit.

PAR. 4. In the course and conduct of its business as aforesaid for the past several years, but more particularly since January 1, 1959, respondent has been and is now making numerous and substantial sales of citrus fruit to some, but not all, of its brokers and direct buyers purchasing for their own account for resale, and on a large number of these sales respondent paid, granted, or allowed, and is now paying, granting, or allowing, to these brokers and direct buyers on their purchases, a commission, brokerage, or other compensation, or an allowance or discount in lieu thereof, in connection therewith.

PAR. 5. The acts and practices of respondent in paying, granting, or allowing a brokerage or commission or a discount or an allowance in lieu thereof, to buyers on purchases for their own account, as hereinabove alleged and described, are in violation of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Clayton Act, as amended (U.S.C. Title 15, Section 13).

Mr. Cecil G. Miles and *Mr. Ernest G. Barnes* for the Commission.
No appearance for respondent.

INITIAL DECISION BY WILLIAM L. PACK, HEARING EXAMINER

The complaint in this matter, issued June 27, 1960, charges the respondent with violation of Section 2(c) of the Clayton Act, as amended, in connection with the sale and distribution of citrus fruit, citrus juices and other food products. An agreement has now been entered into by respondent and counsel supporting the

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complaint which provides, among other things, that respondent admits all of the jurisdictional allegations in the complaint; that the record on which the initial decision and the decision of the Commission shall be based shall consist solely of the complaint and agreement; that the inclusion of findings of fact and conclusions of law in the decision disposing of this matter is waived, together with any further procedural steps before the hearing examiner and the Commission; that the order hereinafter set forth may be entered in disposition of the proceeding, such order to have the same force and effect as if entered after a full hearing, respondent specifically waiving any and all rights to challenge or contest the validity of such order; that the order may be altered, modified, or set aside in the manner provided for other orders of the Commission; that the complaint may be used in construing the terms of the order; and that the agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by respondent that it has violated the law as alleged in the complaint.

The hearing examiner having considered the agreement and proposed order and being of the opinion that they provide an adequate basis for appropriate disposition of the proceeding, the agreement is hereby accepted, the following jurisdictional findings made, and the following order issued:

1. Respondent Roper Growers Cooperative (erroneously referred to in the complaint as Roper Growers Corporation) is a Florida corporation with its office and principal place of business located at Winter Garden, Florida.
2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondent.

ORDER

It is ordered, That the respondent, Roper Growers Cooperative, a corporation, and its officers, agents, representatives, and employees, directly or through any corporate or other device, in connection with the sale of citrus fruit or fruit products, in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the aforesaid Clayton Act, do forthwith cease and desist from:

Paying, granting, or allowing, directly or indirectly, to any buyer, or to anyone acting for or in behalf of or who is subject to the direct or indirect control of such buyer, anything of value as a commission, brokerage, or other compensation, or any allowance or discount in lieu thereof, upon or in connection with any sale of citrus fruit or fruit products to such buyer for his own account.

NEVINS FRUIT CO., INC., ET AL.

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DECISION OF THE COMMISSION AND ORDER TO FILE REPORT OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section 3.21 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the