

Complaint

58 F.T.C.

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

GROWERS MARKETING SERVICE, INC.

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

Docket 8090. Complaint, Aug. 24, 1960—Decision, May 19, 1961

Consent order requiring a packer of citrus fruit in Leesburg, 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.A. Title 15, Section 13), hereby issues its complaint, stating its charges with respect thereto as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Growers Marketing Service, Inc., 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 Leesburg, Florida, with mailing address as Post Office Box 1061, Leesburg, 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. Where brokers are utilized in making sales for it, respondent pays them for their services a brokerage or commission, usually at the rate of 10 cents per 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ th bushel box, or equivalent. 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. 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, respondent has been and is now making 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 other 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 an allowance or discount in lieu thereof, to buyers on their own purchases, as hereinabove alleged and described, are in violation of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Clayton Act, as amended (U.S.C.A. Title 15, Section 13).

Mr. Cecil G. Miles and Mr. Ernest G. Barnes for the Commission.
Johnson & Johnson, by *Mr. Counts Johnson*, of Tampa, Fla., for respondent.

INITIAL DECISION BY WILLIAM L. PACK, HEARING EXAMINER

The complaint in this matter charges the respondent with violation of Section 2(c) of the Clayton Act, as amended. An agreement for disposition of the proceeding by means of a consent order has now been executed by respondent and its counsel and counsel supporting the complaint and submitted to the hearing examiner for his consideration. Attached to and made a part of the agreement is a stipulation entered into by the same parties for the purpose of making clear the intent of the complaint and of the proposed order to cease and desist. The word "agreement" as used herein-after will include the stipulation.

Order

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The agreement 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 the 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 the 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 Growers Marketing Service, Inc. is a corporation 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 in the city of Leesburg, State of Florida, with mailing address as Post Office Box 1061, Leesburg, 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 Growers Marketing Service, Inc., 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.

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Complaint

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION AND ORDER TO FILE REPORT OF COMPLIANCE

The Commission having now determined that the hearing examiner's initial decision, filed January 18, 1961, is adequate and appropriate to dispose of this proceeding:

It is ordered, That said decision be, and it hereby is, adopted as the decision of the Commission.

It is further ordered, That the respondent shall, within sixty (60)