

Complaint

61 F.T.C.

IN THE MATTER OF
SPADA FRUIT SALES AGENCY, INC.

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

Docket C-248. Complaint, Oct. 3, 1962—Decision Oct. 3, 1962

Consent order requiring Tampa, Fla., packers of citrus fruit to cease paying brokerage or discounts in lieu thereof to brokers or direct buyers on 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, Sec. 13), hereby issues its complaint, stating its charges with respect thereto as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Spada Fruit Sales Agency, 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 in Tampa, Florida, with mailing address as P.O. Box 364, Tampa, Fla.

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 directly, and in many instances through brokers, to buyers located in various sections of the United States. When brokers are utilized in making sales, respondent pays said brokers for their services a brokerage or commission, usually at the rate of 5 cents per carton or 10 cents per 1½ 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 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 said 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 citrus fruit across state lines between said respondent and the respective buyers thereof.

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 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 to brokers and direct buyers a commission, brokerage or other compensation, or an allowance or discount in lieu thereof, on their own purchases, as above alleged and described, are in violation of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Clayton Act, as amended (U.S.C. Title 15, Sec. 13).

DECISION AND ORDER

The Commission having heretofore determined to issue its complaint charging the respondent named in the caption hereof with violation of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Clayton Act, as amended, and the respondent having been served with notice of said determination and with a copy of the complaint the Commission intended to issue, together with a proposed form of order; and

The respondent and counsel for the Commission having thereafter executed an agreement containing a consent order, an admission by the respondent of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the complaint to issue herein, a statement that the signing of said agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by respondent that the law has been violated as set forth in such complaint, and waivers and provisions as required by the Commission's rules; and

The Commission, having considered the agreement, hereby accepts same, issues its complaint in the form contemplated by said agreement, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and enters the following order:

1. Respondent, Spada Fruit Sales Agency, 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 in Tampa, Fla., with mailing address as P.O. Box 364, Tampa, Fla.

2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondent.

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ORDER

It is ordered, That the respondent Spada Fruit Sales Agency, 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 Clayton Act, as amended, 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.

It is further ordered, That the respondent herein 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 this order.