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Opinion

It is ordered, That, as to respondents American Chinchilla Corporation, Lowell Thomas Page, Robert V. Fudge, and Gardner F. Tinnin, the initial decision of the hearing examiner be, and it hereby is, adopted as the decision of the Commission.

It is further ordered, That, as to respondent John C. Green, Jr., the complaint be, and it hereby is, dismissed.

IN THE MATTER OF

LAMRITE WEST, INC., TRADING AS A. C. SUPPLY CO., ETC.

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND THE FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACTS

Docket C-1663. Complaint, Dec. 23, 1969—Decision, Dec. 23, 1969

Consent order requiring a Cleveland, Ohio, importer of foreign merchandise to cease importing and marketing dangerously flammable wood fiber chips used primarily for making artificial flowers.

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and by virtue of the authority vested in it by said Acts, the Federal Trade Commission, having reason to believe that Lamrite West, Inc., a corporation, also trading as A. C. Supply Co. and as Catan's Lamrite, and Pat Catanzarite, individually and as an officer of said corporation, hereinafter referred to as respondents, have violated the provisions of said Acts and the Rules and Regulations promulgated under the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding by it in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues its complaint stating its charges in that respect as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Lamrite West, Inc., is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Ohio with its office and principal place of business located at 6605 Clark Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Respondent also trades as A. C. Supply Co. and as Catan's Lamrite.

Individual respondent Pat Catanzarite is the principal officer of said corporate respondent. He formulates, directs and controls the acts, practices and policies of said corporate respondent and his address is the same as that of the corporate respondent.

Respondents are engaged in the sale of various consumer goods, including, but not limited to, wood fiber chips.

PAR. 2. Respondents are now and for some time last past have been engaged in the sale and offering for sale, in commerce, and in the importation into the United States, and have introduced, delivered for introduction, transported and caused to be transported in commerce, and have sold or delivered after sale or shipment in commerce, fabrics, as the terms "commerce" and "fabric" are defined in the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended which fabrics failed to conform to an applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended.

Among such fabrics mentioned hereinabove were wood fiber chips.

PAR. 3. The aforesaid acts and practices of respondents were and are in violation of the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, and constituted, and now constitute, unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in commerce within the intent and meaning of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the respondents named in the caption hereof, and the respondents having been furnished thereafter with a copy of a draft of complaint which the Bureau of Textiles and Furs proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by the Commission, would charge respondents with violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended; and

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

Decision and Order

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that the respondents have violated the said Acts, and that complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having thereupon accepted the executed consent agreement and placed such agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days, now in further conformity with the procedure prescribed in § 2.34(b) of its Rules, the Commission hereby issues its complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and enters the following order:

1. Respondent corporation is organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Ohio with its office and principal place of business located at 6605 Clark Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Respondent Pat Catanzarite is an officer of said corporate respondent and his address is the same as the corporate respondent.

2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

It is ordered, That respondents Lamrite West, Inc., a corporation, also trading as A. C. Supply Co., and Catan's Lamrite or under any other name or names, and its officers, and Pat Catanzarite, individually and as an officer of said corporation, and respondents' representatives, agents and employees, directly or through any corporate or other device, do forthwith cease and desist from manufacturing for sale, selling, offering for sale, in commerce, or importing into the United States, or introducing, delivering for introduction, transporting or causing to be transported in commerce, or selling or delivering after sale or shipment in commerce, any fabric as "commerce" and "fabric" are defined in the Flammable Fabrics Act, as amended, which fails to conform to an applicable standard or regulation continued in effect, issued or amended under the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

It is further ordered, That respondents herein shall, within ten (10) days after service upon them of this order, file with the Commission an interim special report in writing setting forth the respondents' intention as to compliance with this order. This interim special report shall also advise the Commission fully and specifically concerning the identity of the fabric which gave rise to the complaint, (1) the amount of such fabric in inventory, (2)

any action taken to notify customers of the flammability of such fabric and the results thereof and (3) any disposition of such fabric since October 2, 1968. Such report shall further inform the Commission whether respondents have in inventory any wood fiber chips or any other fabric, product or related material having a plain surface and made of silk, rayon or cotton or combination thereof in a weight of two ounces or less per square yard or made of cotton or rayon or combinations thereof with a raised fiber surface. Respondents will submit samples of any such fabric, product or related material with this report.

It is further ordered, That the respondent corporation shall forthwith distribute a copy of this order to each of its operating divisions.

It is further ordered, That the respondents herein shall, within sixty (60) days after service upon them of this order, file with the Commission a report in writing setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they have complied with this order.

IN THE MATTER OF

MALOOLY'S FURNITURE AND CARPET CITY, ET AL.

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND THE TEXTILE FIBER PRODUCTS IDENTIFICATION ACTS

Docket C-1664. Complaint, Dec. 24, 1969—Decision, Dec. 24, 1969

Consent order requiring an El Paso, Texas retailer of furniture, appliances and carpeting to cease falsely advertising and guaranteeing and misbranding its textile fiber products, making deceptive pricing claims, misrepresenting that it is endorsed by a Federal agency, and falsely claiming that it conducts factory bankrupt sales.

COMPLAINT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act and by virtue of the authority vested in it by said Acts, the Federal Trade Commission having reason to believe that Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, a partnership, and Edward T. Malooly, individually and as a copartner trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and George J. Malooly, individually and as a copartner

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trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and as Malooly's Discount Center, or under any other name or names, hereinafter referred to as respondents, have violated the provisions of said Acts and the Rules and Regulations promulgated under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding by it in respect thereof would be in the public interest hereby issues its complaint stating its charges in that respect as follows:

PARAGRAPH 1. Respondent Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City is a partnership organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Texas, with its office and principal place of business located at 9220 Dyer Street, El Paso, Texas. George J. Malooly and Edward T. Malooly are individuals and copartners in said partnership, with their office and principal place of business located at 222 South Santa Fe Street, El Paso, Texas.

Respondent George J. Malooly is an individual trading as Malooly's Discount Center. Malooly's Discount Center is located at 600 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Individual respondent George J. Malooly maintains his office and principal place of business at 222 South Santa Fe Street, El Paso, Texas.

Respondents are primarily engaged in the retail sale of carpets. Sales of furniture and appliances are also made.

Par. 2. Respondents are now and for some time last past have been engaged in the introduction, delivery for introduction, sale, advertising and offering for sale in commerce, and in the transportation or causing to be transported in commerce, and in the importation into the United States, of textile fiber products; and have sold, offered for sale, advertised, delivered, transported or caused to be transported, textile fiber products, which have been advertised, or offered for sale in commerce; and have sold, offered for sale, advertised, delivered, transported and caused to be transported, after shipment in commerce, textile fiber products, either in their original state or contained in other textile fiber products; as the terms "commerce" and "textile fiber product" are defined in the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act.

PAR. 3. Certain of said textile fiber products were misbranded by respondents within the intent and meaning of Section 4(a) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, in that they were falsely and deceptively stamped, tagged, labeled, invoiced, advertised or otherwise identified as to the name or amount of the constituent fibers contained therein.

Among such misbranded textile fiber products, but not limited thereto, were floor coverings which were falsely and deceptively advertised in the El Paso Times, a newspaper published in the city of El Paso, Texas, and having a wide circulation in the said State and various other States of the United States.

Also among such misbranded textile fiber products, but not limited thereto, were textile fiber products, namely floor coverings, which were falsely and deceptively advertised by means of the aforesaid advertisements and others of similar import and meaning not specifically referred to herein, in that said floor coverings containing exempted backings, fillings or paddings, were described therein as "DuPont 501 Nylon" without a disclosure that such fiber content information applied only to the face, pile or outer surface of the floor coverings and not to be exempted backings, fillings or paddings. The respondents' description of said floor coverings without such disclosure had the tendency and capacity to mislead respondents' customers and others into the erroneous belief that said floor coverings were composed entirely of nylon when this was not the fact. Such failure to disclose a material fact was to the prejudice of respondents' customers and the purchasing public and constituted false and deceptive advertising under Section 4(a) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act.

PAR. 4. Certain of said textile fiber products were misbranded by respondents in that there were not on or affixed to said textile fiber products any stamps, tags, labels, or other means of identification showing the required information, in violation of Section 4(b) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act.

PAR. 5. Certain of said textile fiber products were falsely and deceptively advertised in that respondents in making disclosures or implications as to the fiber content of such textile fiber products in written advertisements used to aid, promote and assist directly or indirectly in the sale or offering for sale of said products, failed to set forth the required information as to fiber content as specified by Section 4(c) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act and in the manner and form prescribed by the Rules and Regulations promugated under said Act.

Among such textile fiber products, but not limited thereto, were floor coverings which were falsely and deceptively advertised by means of advertisements placed by the respondents in the El Paso 1042

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Times, published in El Paso, Texas, and having a wide circulation in said State and various other States of the United States, in that the true generic names of the fibers in such floor coverings were not set forth.

- PAR. 6. By means of the aforesaid advertisements and others of similar import and meaning not specifically referred to herein, respondents falsely and deceptively advertised textile fiber products in violation of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act in that said textile fiber products were not advertised in accordance with the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder in the following respects:
- 1. In disclosing the required fiber content information as to floor coverings containing exempted backings, fillings, or paddings, such disclosure was not made in such a manner as to indicate that such required fiber content information related only to the face, pile, or outer surface of the floor coverings and not to the backings, fillings, or paddings, in violation of Rule 11 of the aforesaid Rules and Regulations.
- 2. A fiber trademark was used in advertising textile fiber products, namely floor coverings, containing only one fiber and such fiber trademark did not appear, at least once in the said advertisement, in immediate proximity and conjunction with the generic name of the fiber, in plainly legible and conspicuous type, in violation of Rule 41(c) of the aforesaid Rules and Regulations.
- PAR. 7. The acts and practices of the respondents, as set forth above, were and are in violation of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, and constituted, and now constitute, unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices, in commerce, under the Federal Trade Commission Act.
- PAR. 8. Respondents are now and for some time last past have been engaged in the advertising, sale, offering for sale, and distribution of floor coverings, and other products, in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

In the course and conduct of their business, respondents have advertised their products in "The El Paso Times" a newspaper published in El Paso, Texas, and having a wide circulation in said State and various other States of the United States.

Also in the course and conduct of their business, respondents now cause, and for some time last past have caused, their said products, when sold, to be shipped from their place of business in the State of Texas to purchasers thereof located in various other States of the United States.

The respondents maintain and at all times mentioned herein have maintained, a substantial course of trade in said products in "commerce," as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

PAR. 9. Respondents in the course and conduct of their business, as aforesaid, have made guaranty statements in the El Paso Times, a newspaper published in El Paso, Texas, advertising their textile fiber products, namely, floor coverings, as:

"Guaranteed 10 Years."

PAR. 10. Through the use of such statements and representations as set forth above, and others similar thereto, but not specifically set out herein, the respondents have represented directly or indirectly, to the purchasing public, that said floor coverings are unconditionally guaranteed for ten years.

PAR. 11. In truth and in fact, said floor coverings are not unconditionally guaranteed for ten years and the nature and extent of the guarantee and the manner in which the guarantor will perform was not set forth in connection therewith. Moreover, the name and address of the guarantor were not set forth as required. Therefore, the statements and representations made by the respondents, as hereinbefore stated, were and are, false, misleading and deceptive.

PAR. 12. Respondents in the course and conduct of their business, as aforesaid, have made certain statements with respect to the pricing of their textile fiber products, namely, floor coverings, in the El Paso Times. Among and typical, but not all inclusive of such statements are the following:

\$10.95 sq. yd. to be sold for \$3.95 sq yd. \$10.95 sq. yd. to be sold for \$3.85 sq. yd. \$10 sq. yd. to be sold for \$3.95.

PAR. 13. By and through the use of the above-quoted statements, and others of similar import not specifically set out herein, respondents have represented, directly or by implication, that the higher stated prices set out in said advertisements were the prices at which the advertised merchandise was sold or offered for sale by respondents, in good faith, for a reasonably substantial period of time in the recent regular course of their business, and that the prices of respondents' products were reduced from the higher stated prices and the amounts of such reductions represented savings to the purchasers thereof.

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PAR. 14. In truth and in fact, the higher prices set out in said advertisements were not the prices at which the advertised merchandise was sold or offered for sale by respondents, in good faith, for a reasonably substantial period of time in the recent, regular course of their business, and the prices of respondents' products were not reduced from the higher prices; therefore, the amounts of such reductions did not represent savings to the purchasers thereof.

PAR. 15. In the course and conduct of their aforesaid business, and for the purpose of bolstering and reinforcing their claims that certain floor coverings were being offered for sale at greatly reduced prices, respondents have made statements in advertisements inserted in the El Paso Times and the El Paso Herald Post, newspapers published in El Paso, Texas and having a wide circulation in said State and various other States of the United States. Among and typical of such statements are the following:

Government Approved F.H.A. Carpet Dupont 501, Factory Bankruptcy sale * * *.

Malooly buys all remaining stock of Jackson Manufacturing Company, Jackson, Mississippi, and offers it to the public at Pennies on the Dollar!

Ring!! Ring!! Ring!! *** Long Distance call for Eddie Malooly! Curt Baxter, President of Prestige Furniture at Newton, North Carolina, calling. We will give you up to 50% discount from our wholesale prices.

- PAR. 16. By and through the use of the above statements and others of similar import not specifically set out herein, respondents have represented, directly or by implication, that:
- (a) The Federal Housing Administration had approved the respondents' business or the carpet respondents sell;
- (b) Respondents were connected with or were conducting a bankruptcy sale;
- (c) Respondents have acquired their products being offered for sale by means of special purchases from certain specific sources; and
- (d) Through such special purchases savings are being afforded the purchasing public.

In truth and in fact:

1. Neither the Federal Housing Administration or any other agency has issued any "endorsement" or "approval" of respondents' business or any product of respondents' business.

- 2. Respondents' were not conducting or connected with a bank-ruptcy sale.
- 3. Respondents did not acquire the products being offered for sale by special purchase from sources designated in the advertisement; and
- 4. Savings were not afforded the purchasing public as represented.

PAR. 17. The aforesaid acts and practices of the respondents, as herein alleged in Paragraphs Nine through Sixteen, were and are, all to the prejudice and injury of the public and of the respondents' competitors, and constituted, and now constitute, unfair and deceptive acts and practices in commerce, in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the respondents named in the caption hereof, and the respondents having been furnished thereafter with a copy of a draft of complaint which the Bureau of Textiles and Furs proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by the Commission, would charge respondents with violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act; and

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

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that the respondents have violated the said Acts, and that complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having thereupon accepted the executed consent agreement and placed such agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days, now in further conformity with the procedure prescribed in § 2.34(b) of its Rules, the Commission hereby issues its complaint, makes the following jurisdictional findings, and enters the following order:

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1. Respondent Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City is a partnership with its office and principal place of business located at 9220 Dyer Street, El Paso, Texas.

Respondent George J. Malooly and Edward T. Malooly are individuals and copartners in said partnership, with their office and principal place of business located at 222 South Santa Fe Street, El Paso, Texas.

Respondent George J. Malooly is an individual trading as Malooly's Discount Center. Malooly's Discount Center is located at 600 North Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

It is ordered. That respondents Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, a partnership, and Edward T. Malooly, individually and as a copartner trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and George J. Malooly, individually and as a copartner trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and as Malooly's Discount Center, or under any other name or names, and respondents' representatives, agents and employees, directly or through any corporate or other device, in connection with the introduction, delivery for introduction, sale, advertising, or offering for sale, in commerce, or the transportation or causing to be transported in commerce, or the importation into the United States, of any textile fiber product; or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, advertising, delivery, transportation, or causing to be transported, of any textile fiber product which has been advertised or offered for sale in commerce; or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, advertising, delivery, transportation or causing to be transported, after shipment in commerce, of any textile fiber product, whether in its original state or contained in other textile fiber products, as the terms "commerce" and "textile fiber product" are defined in the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, do forthwith cease and desist from:

A. Misbranding textile fiber products by:

1. Falsely or deceptively stamping, tagging, labeling, invoicing, advertising or otherwise identifying such

products as to the name or amount of the constituent fibers contained therein.

- 2. Failing to affix a stamp, tag, label, or other means of identification to each such product showing in a clear, legible and conspicuous manner each element of information required to be disclosed by Section 4(b) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act.
- B. Falsely and deceptively advertising textile fiber products by:
 - 1. Making any representations by disclosure or by implication as to the fiber content of any textile fiber product in any written advertisement which is used to aid, promote or assist, directly or indirectly, in the sale or offering for sale of such textile fiber product, unless the same information required to be shown on the stamp, tag, label or other means of identification under Sections 4(b) (1) and (2) of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act is contained in the said advertisement, except the percentages of fibers present in the textile fiber product need not be stated.
 - 2. Failing to set forth in disclosing the required fiber content information as to floor coverings containing exempted backings, fillings or paddings, that such disclosure relates only to the face, pile or outer surface of such textile fiber products and not to the exempted backings, filling or paddings.
 - 3. Using a fiber trademark in advertising textile fiber products containing only one fiber without such fiber trademark appearing at least once in the advertisement in immediate proximity and conjunction with the generic name of the fiber plainly in legible and conspicuous type.

It is further ordered, That respondents Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, a partnership, and Edward T. Malooly, individually and as a copartner trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and George J. Malooly, individually and as a copartner trading as Malooly's Furniture and Carpet City, and as Malooly's Discount Center, or under any other name or names, and respondents' representatives, agents and employees, directly or through

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any corporate or other device, in connection with the advertising, sale, offering for sale, or distribution of floor coverings, or other products, in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act, do forthwith cease and desist from:

- 1. Representing that any of respondents' products are guaranteed, unless the nature and extent of the guarantee, the name of the guarantor, the address of the guarantor and the manner in which the guarantor will perform thereunder are clearly and conspicuously disclosed in immediate conjunction therewith.
- 2. Representing, directly or by implication, that any price, whether accompanied or not by descriptive terminology is the respondents' former price of any such product when such price is in excess of the price at which such product has been sold or offered for sale in good faith by the respondents for a reasonably substantially period of time in the recent regular course of business, or otherwise misrepresenting the price at which any such product has been sold or offered for sale by respondents.
- 3. Falsely representing that savings are afforded to the purchaser of any such product or misrepresenting in any manner the amount of savings afforded to the purchaser of such product.
- 4. Falsely representing that the price of any such product is reduced.
- 5. Falsely representing that the Federal Housing Administration, or any other agency of the United States Government, has issued an approval or endorsement of respondents' business or falsely representing that respondents' products have been endorsed by any other organization or person.
- 6. Falsely representing that respondents are conducting, or are in any way connected with, a "factory bankruptcy sale."
- 7. Falsely representing that respondents have acquired any products by means of special purchases or that through such special purchases, savings are being offered to the consuming public misrepresenting in any manner the source from which any of respondents' merchandise was obtained.

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It is further ordered, That the respondents henceforth maintain full and adequate records supporting all pricing claims made by them.

It is further ordered, That respondents herein shall, within sixty (60) days after service upon them of this order, file with the Commission a report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which they have complied with this order.

INTERLOCUTORY, VACATING, AND MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS

AVON PUBLICATIONS, INC., ET AL.

Docket 6911. Opinion and Order, July 15, 1969

Order adopting hearing examiner's recommendation that show cause order be vacated and that proceeding to determine whether Hearst Corporation was to be considered the successor to any of corporate respondents be dismissed.

OPINION OF THE COMMISSION

This matter presents a single narrow issue for the determination of the Commission: Is the Hearst Corporation a successor to the respondent corporations herein such that it may be bound by the consent order entered against those respondents?

On October 21, 1958, the Commission issued a consent order against Avon Publications, Inc., Avon Publishing Company, Inc., Avon Book Sales Corporation, Joseph M. Mann, and Harry Rebell, prohibiting continuance of certain misleading practices with respect to the titling of books, Avon Publications, Inc., 55 F.T.C. 619. The respondent corporations were part of a group of publishing companies, owned entirely by Joseph Meyers and Harry Rebell, which had been separately incorporated for tax and other business purposes. Mr. Meyers, who owned 85 per cent of the stock of these corporations and was responsible for formulating company policy and managing daily operations, died on November 3, 1957, prior to issuance of the order against the Avon companies. Mr. Meyers' interest in the publishing companies comprised the major portion of his estate and, from the time of Mr. Meyers' death, the attorneys representing the Meyers' estate urged Mr. Rebell-who owned the remaining 15 percent of the stock in the corporate group—to liquidate the Meyers' interest.

¹ Before the order issued, Avon Publishing Company, Inc., was merged into Avon Publications, Inc. In this opinion, the corporations subject to the 1958 consent order are sometimes referred to as "the Avon companies."