

(also NYTimes and WXPost,
26 May 73)

Stories on Justice Department officials - Post suggests Mitchell - overruling staff recommendations for investigation by Antitrust Division of Precision Valve Corporation, owned by Abplanalp.

- ✓ 11 Jul 69 - Abplanalp loan to Nixon to buy San Clemente property. ** (\$450,000.)
- Late 1969 - Precision Valve, foreseeing a decline in its position because its patent was expiring the following year, rolled back its prices and instituted a rebate program.
- 29 Apr 70 - Liam S. Coonan, New York office, Antitrust Division, following complaint filed by one of Precision Valve's competitors, writes memo to head of office, Norman H. Seidler, requesting authorization for investigation of Precision Valve, on the basis of potential violation of Sherman Antitrust Act.
- 19 Jun 70 - ~~Robert B. Hummel~~ Coonan's memo forwarded to Washington office with note from Seidler saying he concurred.
- ✓ * 21 Jul 70 - Robert B. Hummel, division's deputy chief of operations, sends memo to Seidler authorizing "a full investigation" of Precision Valve.
- 20 Aug 70 - Barry Grossman, evaluation section, Antitrust Division, Washington, writes memo (Post does not indicate to whom), arguing against the investigation because it would be "difficult and costly "
- 24 Aug 70 - Hummel, in letter to Seidler, retreats from authorization, saying he is inclined to "close the matter," and asking for Seidler's views.
- 20 Jan 71 - Hummel, in letter to Walker B. Comegys, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the division, outlines differences of opinion between New York office and the division's evaluation section on the matter, indicates he feels the investigation should proceed.
- ✓ 14 Dec 70 - Abplanalp creates an investment company and purchases all but 5.9 acres of San Clemente tract for \$1,249,000.
- ? - Undated "memorandum to the attorney general" (Mitchell). Memo is not signed but carries the typed name of Richard W. McLaren, then assistant attorney general in charge of Antitrust Division, giving reasons in favor of investigation of Precision Valve, concluding "It is planned to issue the proposed [civil investigative demand, a kind of subpoena, presumably to obtain Precision Valve's records] unless we hear from you within seven days."
- 2 Feb 71 - Handwritten note by Comegys at the bottom of Hummel's memo to him, saying "I would close this investigation " On the same day Hummel sends memo to Seidler in New York, saying, "Pursuant to Mr. Grossman's memorandum dated Aug. 20, 1970 . . . you are authorized to close the captioned investigation."
- *15 Jul 70 - Abplanalp makes second loan to Nixon, \$175,000, when first mortgage payment is due (\$100,000 for mortgage, \$75,000 interest). **

** See Coopers and Lybrand audit, this file, 28 Aug 73.