

The Assistant Attorney General in charge of antitrust has expressed some dissatisfaction with the bill. However, there is no doubt that when legislation is finally agreed upon the Antitrust Division will drop its AT&T suit seeking divestiture of AT&T's local regulated telephone monopolies from those portions of AT&T including Western Electric which engage in competitive and potentially competitive activities.

CANADIAN PULP PRODUCERS FACE E.E.C. COMPETITION CHARGES

A despatch by Giles Merritt in London's Financial Times of September 25 reports that the European Economic Community's Competition Directorate has launched a major case against leading Nordic, North American, Spanish and Portuguese paper pulp producers. He states:

"All have received notification from the Commission's competition authorities alleging that they have acted in collusion before posting their prices. Commission sources suggest that the effect of the 65 producers' pricing policies has been to push prices in the EEC to a point where European producers could not compete."

According to other sources, Canadian producers are included in the case. It is not yet clear whether the case, if it proceeds, will be conducted under Article 85 (collusion) of the Treaty of Rome or under Article 86 (abuse of a dominant position).

U.N. ANTITRUST GROUP HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The United Nations Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices (I.G.E.) held its first annual meeting on November 2-11 in Geneva.

The formation of the IGE which is within the framework of UNCTAD, was one of the recommendations in the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in December, 1980 (the text of the Principles and Rules is reproduced in the June 1980 issue of Canadian Competition Policy Record). The mandate of the IGE is basically to provide a forum for exchanges of views on matters related to the Principles and Rules and to make studies and recommendations. Those represented at the meeting included some 68 countries along with a number of specialized agencies, intergovernmental groupings including the European Economic Community, and non-governmental agencies including law associations, the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Organization of Consumer Unions. The Canadian delegate acted as the Coordinator for Group B (the OECD countries).