

GLASS CONTAINER BUSINESS BOTTLED THROUGH PATENTS

**Single Company Controls
Industry and Runs It Head
Of Firm Tells Senate
Probers**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (AP).—

The monopoly committee received testimony today a single company "dominates" the manufacture of glass containers—milk bottles, medicine bottles, fruit jars and beer and liquor bottles—with a control so tight Chairman O'Mahoney charged it with regulating prices as well.

The company is the Hartford-Empire Company of Hartford, Conn., whose imperturbable and elaborately courteous president, F. G. Smith, sat through a long day of rigorous questioning. It culminated in his declining to deny, and yet refusing to acknowledge unqualifiedly, that price control was within the power of the company.

Owns Patents

The key to Hartford-Empire's conceded domination of the industry, it developed, was its ownership of patents on the machinery by which glass containers can be produced most economically. It also owns the machinery, and leases it on a royalty basis to individual manufacturers. In leasing the machinery it stipulates what type of container each manufacturer may produce and, in a few cases, how many containers. And it can say whether or not a new manufacturer is to be admitted to the business.

The committee, investigating many phases of the economic system, turned to the glass container industry today to bring out the contrast between two systems of using patents. Testimony last week showed that in the automobile industry, any manufacturer is virtually free to use any device patented by a competitor. Committee members were enthusiastic in their praise of this system as a stimulant to competition and to the development of efficient automobiles.

Holds Most of Business

Today, after Hugh Cox of the Department of Justice had led Smith through a long exposition of the practices of Hartford-Empire,

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