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The American Anti-Rust Institute Threatens IP Suit Against ABA Section

(Washington, DC) The American Anti-Rust Institute (AAI) is a non-profit research arm of the domestic anti-rust industry, headquartered on K Street in Washington, DC. According to leaking sources, it is threatening to sue the ABA Antitrust Section and others who include in their name the word *antitrust*, claiming trademark, copyright, and various other intellectual property violations.

Washington attorney Timothy J. Muris, speaking at a gathering of the ABA Antitrust Section, declared that confusion between rust and trust is easy to explain, in that the recent evaporation of the nation's secretarial pool has left communications dependent on many people who simply cannot type accurately. He argues that rust came first in time, when oxygen found its way to the planet Earth, possibly from alien sources. Because trust emerged as a viable concept only much later, in or around 1980, the anti-rust organization has the prior right to its name and the confusion sown by the antitrust movement can only be stopped by enjoining use of the word "antitrust". He acknowledged that his organization has been conducting secret intelligence operations against the Antitrust Section in preparation for this assault, which he justified by his client's motto, "Be antitrust but verify."

In discussing a possible remedy, Mr. Muris speculated that the antitrust people could substitute the phrase "competition policy" and this would not only alleviate confusion but would contribute to world harmony in that no one outside of a small group of self-declared American experts has any idea of what "antitrust" is anyhow or why it purports to set itself in opposition to one of the noblest of human qualities.

Kathryn M. Fenton, president of the ABA Antitrust Section, reacted indignantly to the threatened suit. "We are innocent bystanders. I will be discussing this abuse of the intellectual property laws personally with the FTC."

The American Antitrust Institute and 35 other organizations with the same initials declined to comment.

[EDITOR'S NOTE. If this reportage turns out to be less than entirely trustworthy, it is because we were rushed into print by fear of being scooped by The New Republic. As in previous years, any relation between the characters herein and persons living or dead is purely coincidental. We offer this editor's note at our liability insurer's request in recognition that the media not only occasionally drops a "t" or adds a hyphen but from time to time fails to deduce that an AAI April 1 offering may not be altogether straightforward.]