

H

Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit.

UNITED STATES
v.
PARFAIT POWDER PUFF CO., Inc.

No. 9269.

Nov. 4, 1947.

Appeal from the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division; William J. Campbell, Judge.

Parfait Powder Puff Company, Inc., was convicted of introducing into interstate commerce adulterated cosmetics in violation of Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, section 301(a), [21 U.S.C.A. section 331\(a\)](#), and it appeals.

Judgment affirmed.

West Headnotes

[1] Drugs and Narcotics  **29**
[138k29](#)

(Formerly 138k2)

Where defendant engaged in manufacture and sale of cosmetics contracted with another to manufacture and distribute to defendant's customers, hair lacquer pads under defendant's label, defendant was criminally liable for violation of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by introduction of adulterated pads, into interstate commerce under contract, though adulteration of pads was without defendant's knowledge, and defendant could not escape liability under statute exempting from penalties, persons who receive adulterated article and deliver it in good faith. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, § § 1 et seq., 301(a), 303(a, c), [21 U.S.C.A. § § 301 et seq., 331\(a\), 333\(a, c\)](#).

[2] Drugs and Narcotics  **2.1**
[138k2.1](#)

(Formerly 138k2)

A violation of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by an instrumentality created by manufacturer and distributor of cosmetics acting within the powers which the parties have mutually agreed should be lodged in it is imputed in the interest of public policy

to the creator of the instrumentality and penalties are imposed upon the creator. Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, § 1 et seq., [21 U.S.C.A. § 301](#) et seq.

[3] Criminal Law  **62**
[110k62](#)

One who owes a particular duty to the public and entrusts its performance to another, whether independent contractor or agent, becomes responsible criminally for failure of the person, to whom he has delegated the obligation to comply with the law, if the nonperformance of such duty is a crime.

[4] Drugs and Narcotics  **29**
[138k29](#)

(Formerly 138k2)

The provision of Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act exempting from penalties any person who receives in interstate commerce adulterated article and delivers or proffers delivery of it in good faith was designed to protect innocent dealers who receive goods shipped in interstate commerce, and not the consignors of such goods. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, § § 1 et seq., [301\(a\)](#), 303(a, c), [21 U.S.C.A. § § 301 et seq., 331\(a\), 333\(a, c\)](#).

*1008 Harry H. Ruskin and Joseph Rosenbaum, both of Chicago, Ill., for appellant.

Otto Kerner, Jr., U.S. Atty., Robert C. Eardley, Theron L. Caudle, Asst. Atty. Gen., J. Albert Woll, U.S. Atty, Northern Dist. of Illinois, all of Chicago, Ill. (Vincent A. Kleinfeld, Atty. Dept. of Justice, and Arthur A. Dickerman, Atty., Federal Security Agency, both of Washington, D.C., of counsel), for appellee.

Before EVANS and SPARKS, Circuit Judges, and LINDLEY, District Judge.

LINDLEY, District Judge.

Defendant appeals from a judgment of conviction of a charge of violation of [Section 301\(a\)](#) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, [21 U.S.C.A. § 301](#) et seq., entered after trial without a jury, largely upon stipulated facts.

[Section 301\(a\)](#) prohibits introduction into interstate commerce of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic which is 'adulterated or misbranded.' Anyone

violating this enactment *1009 is subject to prosecution under Section 303(a), reading: 'Any person who violates any of the provisions of [section 301](#) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall on conviction thereof be subject to imprisonment for not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both such imprisonment and fine; * * * .' There is no dispute that the cosmetics involved, hair lacquer pads, were adulterated in that they contained a substance which rendered them deleterious in use under the conditions prescribed on their labels, or that they were introduced into interstate commerce.

The only issue here, whether the defendant was rightfully held responsible for the violation, must be determined upon the facts. Defendant, engaged in the manufacture and sale of cosmetic products, in 1943, entered into a contract with Helfrich Laboratories whereby the latter agreed to manufacture, place in packages and distribute to defendant's customers hair lacquer pads. Defendant supplied Helfrich with jars, caps, labels, display cards, flannel pads and shipping containers. Helfrich impregnated the pads with a shellac lacquer, placed them in labeled jars bearing defendant's name, shipped the packages, in accord with shipping directions furnished by defendant, consigned by defendant to its purchasers as consignees, and rendered bills to defendant for the commodity.

The same submitted by Helfrich, when the arrangement was first made, was tested by defendant and found satisfactory. Later, without defendant's knowledge, so far as this record discloses, Helfrich substituted for shellac in the lacquer, a gum, for the reason, as it claimed, that it was impossible to obtain shellac. This element proved to be deleterious in use. As soon as defendant learned of the substitution it forbade use of the gum.

[1][2] In this situation, it is defendant's position that the violation was not that of itself but that of Helfrich. It argues that Helfrich was not its agent, but an independent contractor, for whose acts it is not responsible. But we are not concerned with any distinction between independent contractors and agents in the ordinary sense of those words. It is clear that defendant was engaged in procuring the manufacture and distribution of the article in interstate commerce. It saw fit to create out of Helfrich's activities in its behalf an instrumentality and to avail itself of the acts of that instrumentality, which effected an introduction into commerce of an adulterated article violative of the standards fixed by the Act. This we think it could not do without incurring the criminal penalty imposed by the statute.

The liability was not incurred because defendant consciously participated in the wrongful act, but because the instrumentality is controlled in the interest of public policy by inputting the act so its creator and imposing penalties upon the latter. [New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company, v. United States, 212 U.S. 481, 29 S.Ct. 304, 53 L.Ed. 613.](#)

In [United States v. Balint, et al., 258 U.S. 250, 254, 42 S.Ct. 301, 302, 66 L.Ed. 604,](#) the court directed attention to authorities approving legislation in aid of maintenance of a public policy, prohibiting and punishing particular acts, commenting that 'he who shall do them shall do them at his peril and will not be heard to plead in defense good faith or ignorance' and proceeding as follows: 'Congress weighed the possible injustice of subjecting an innocent seller to a penalty against the evil of exposing innocent purchasers to danger from the drug, and concluded that the latter was the result preferably to be avoided.' And in the comparatively recent case, [United States v. Dotterweich, 320 U.S. 277, 64 S.Ct. 134, 88 L.Ed. 48,](#) the court said: 'The offense is committed * * * by all who do have such a responsible share in the furtherance of the transaction which the statute outlaws, namely, to put into the stream of interstate commerce adulterated or misbranded drugs. Hardship there doubtless may be under a statute which thus penalizes the transaction though consciousness of wrong-doing be totally wanting. Balancing relative hardships, Congress has preferred to place it upon those who have at least the *1010 opportunity of informing themselves of the existence of conditions imposed for the protection of consumers before sharing an illicit commerce, rather than to throw the hazard on the innocent public who are wholly helpless.'

[3] In other words when defendant engaged in manufacture and distribution of cosmetics in commerce, there was in force this statute, enacted as a matter of public policy for the protection of the purchasing public. Defendant knew that the goods would pass into commerce. It knew that if those goods violated the provisions of the Act, liability would be incurred. This liability it could not shift to the instrumentality which it had created for the purpose of accomplishment of the completed transaction of manufacture, distribution and sale. Rather defendant was bound to see that its product, when introduced into commerce, was not antagonistic to and violative of the sovereign will, which, expressed in the act of Congress, enters into and becomes a part of all contracts relating to the production and distribution of articles in commerce.

The person who brings goods into commerce, by whatever means or implements, is bound to see that the commodity thus put in commerce is not beyond the pale of the legislative act. In other words, one who owes a certain duty to the public and entrusts its performance to another, whether it be an independent contractor or agent, becomes responsible criminally for the failure of the person to whom he has delegated the obligation to comply with the law, if the nonperformance of such duty is a crime. Defendant may not put into operation forces effectuating a placement in commerce of a prohibited commodity in its behalf and then claim immunity because the instrumentality it has voluntarily selected has failed to live up to the standards of the law. [Cummer-Graham Co. v. Straight Side Basket Corp.](#), 5 Cir., 142 F.2d 646; Anno. 152 A.L.R. 761; [John Griffiths & Son Company v. National Fireproofing Co.](#), 310 Ill. 331, 141 N.E. 739, 38 A.L.R. 559; [United States v. Wilson](#), D.C., 59 F.2d 97; [United States v. Buchanan](#), D.C., 9 F. 689; [Weeks v. United States](#), 2 Cir., 224 F. 64; 1 Burdick Law of Crime, p. 232, et seq.

[4] Defendant makes the further contention that it is exempt from prosecution by virtue of Section 303(c) of the Act. Section 303(a) provides that any person who violates any of the provisions of [Section 301](#) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall on conviction thereof be subject to a fine. Section 303(c) provides that 'no person shall be subject to the penalties of subsection (a) of this section, (1) for having received in interstate commerce any article and delivered it or proffered delivery of it, if such delivery or proffer was made in good faith,' unless certain conditions precedent are complied with. Defendant insists that it is a person who has 'received in interstate commerce' the deleterious article within the meaning of this provision. But the weakness of the contention is that defendant is not within the class mentioned in Section 303(c). It has not received in interstate commerce the article complained of. On the contrary, it is the moving force in the procurement of introduction of the article into commerce. The facts will not justify the strained construction that when Helfrich delivered the goods to carriers in behalf of defendant as consignor, addressed to its purchasers as consignees, defendant thereupon received the goods in interstate commerce within the meaning of the Act. Rather than having received the goods in commerce, defendant in fact caused them to be placed in commerce. This is apparent when we consider the purpose of this provision. It is clear that it was designed to protect innocent dealers who receive goods shipped in interstate commerce. Thus, in Senate Report No.

493, 73d Cong.2d Sess., accompanying S. 2800, the Senate Committee reported as follows: 'The existing law provides for a guaranty whereby a dealer who buys on faith may be protected from liability under the law. This provision has safe-guarded innocent dealers and has been extremely useful in fixing responsibility on guilty shippers. It would be continued in effect by paragraph (e). The bill affords in this paragraph further protection to the innocent dealer who distributes goods he has received from interstate sources. If he has failed to secure a guaranty he can escape penalties by furnishing the records of interstate *1011 shipment, thus allowing the prosecution to lie solely against the guilty shipper.' It is clear, we think, that the Act was intended to furnish protection to innocent receivers of goods shipped to them in interstate commerce in violation of the Act and not to consignors of such goods, such as defendant.

The judgment is affirmed.

END OF DOCUMENT