

## **Concerns Agree to Quit Kosher Meat Business**

CHICAGO, Feb. 26 (AP) — Three companies accused of fraudulently selling as kosher thousands of pounds of non-kosher poultry have agreed in a legal settlement to leave the business, officials said today.

"We wanted to make sure something like this never happened again," said Rabbi Victor Segal, president of Gold-rian-Segal Kosher Caterers of Chicago, which had accused the three companies of fraud in a Federal lawsuit. "It was a nightmare."

Rabbi Segal said it was the largest case of fraud involving mislabeling of kosher foods, involving customers in as many as 22 states.

Jewish religious law mandates a ritual for butchering poultry and meats and removing as much blood as possible to make them kosher. "The process is lengthy and more expensive," Rabbi Segal said.

In mid-December, Rabbi Segal's catering company sued the companies -- United Poultry Inc., Aspen Foods Inc. and Shelat Kosher Foods Inc., all of Chicago. Two of the companies' officers were also accused of false advertising, fraud and deceptive practices.