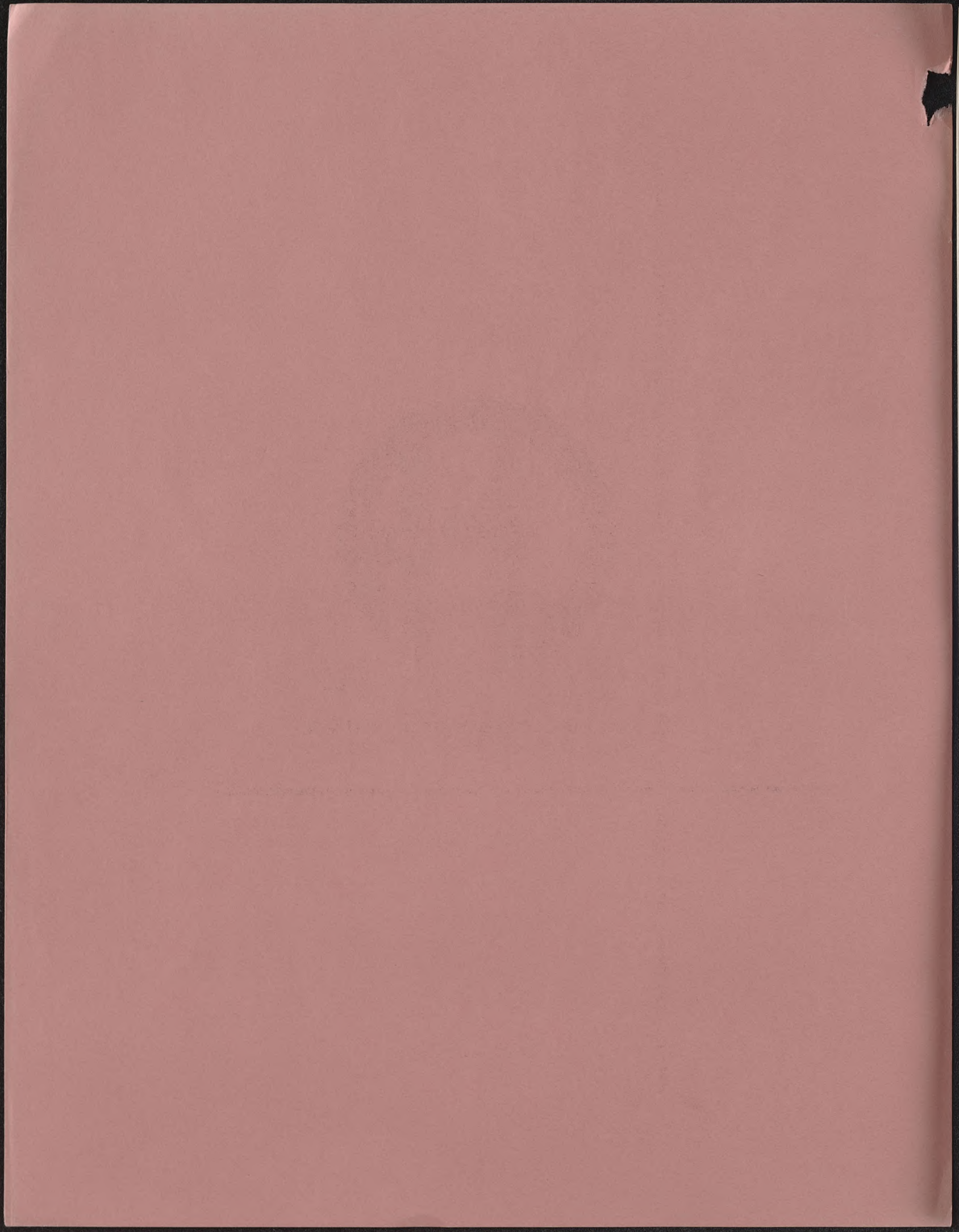




consumer federation of america

1012 14th ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005



CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA MOVES ON ALL FRONTS

In the Congress

- lobbied for the new independent safety agency to set and enforce standards for commonly-used household products
- worked vigorously for an independent consumer protection agency to represent consumers before all government agencies and courts
- provided the only major consumer support for no-fault
- advocated legislation for minimum warranties and increased FTC authority
- testified for truth-in-advertising legislation to require documentation of claims and broadcast time for counter ads
- helped prevent passage of legislation requiring the government to pay industry for alleged losses resulting from the cyclamate ban
- increased pressure for a national fuels policy and coordination of federal energy programs
- effectively lobbied to prevent weakening of present meat inspection laws
- urged passage of law to prohibit real estate settlement kickbacks
- supported the new law regulating and making public activities of government advisory committees

In the regulatory agencies

- petitioned FDA for nutrition labeling; for banning food coloring Red Dye #2 and limiting other coloring additives; and provided consumer representatives to serve as watchdogs in FDA's over-the-counter drug review program
- repeatedly asked the Price Commission to establish an understandable and equitable system of controls including effective utility rate regulations
- petitioned FTC to prohibit unfair credit reporting practice and to require refunds for merchandise undelivered after 21 days
- requested FCC ruling on newsmen's immunity from dismissals based on stories critical of sponsors and also mounted pressure for broadcast time for counter advertising as proposed by FTC

In the courts

- intervened in support of FTC's authority to make trade regulations (Octane case)
- continued class action suit for reimbursement of drug overcharges
- continued four year court battle to keep lid on gas rates

Outside Washington

- Maintained pressure on state legislatures to reject the Uniform Consumer Credit Code, a law for lenders permitting interest rates as high as 39 per cent
- Launched major drive for repeal of state laws prohibiting retail drug price advertising

CFA ALSO CHARTERED THE PAUL H. DOUGLAS CONSUMER RESEARCH CENTER. THE CENTER IS A TAX-EXEMPT RESEARCH ARM TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON CONSUMER ISSUES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CONSUMER GROUPS, AND TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC IN COURTS AND BEFORE FEDERAL REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES.

"I'm protecting you from a police state"

Rocky Mountain News
October 7, 1972



Long Island Press
March 9, 1972

Consumer Group Mounts Counterattack to Businessmen

By KAY MILLS
Special to The Press From
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — The Consumer Federation of America claims it "has uncovered the businessmen's battle-plan for killing or gutting" a Senate bill to create a Consumer Protection Agency.

The Washington-based federation is urging its members to map a counter campaign as lobbyists on both sides tote out their typewriters and telephones again on the measure, which passed the house last October. A stronger bill is pending before the Senate Government Operations Committee.

The agency proposed in the Senate bill would act as a consumer advocate in any government deliberations. It could appeal other agencies' decisions in the courts but would have no regulatory power of its own.

The mail deluge has grown to the extent that Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., who came to Washington from the business community, this rebuked the National and Illinois Chambers of Commerce for their "blunderbuss blast" at the bill. Mail in some offices is running 10-1

against the proposed agency, a federation official said.

The plan—called the "Business Responsiveness Kit"—bears no indication of who prepared it. But the phrase it uses to describe the bill — "Nader Enabling Act" — also appears in a letter about the measure signed by Lester Brann, president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

THE KIT describes the bill as "conceived and actively supported by Ralph Nader" and says it "is specifically designed to goad local, state and federal governmental units as well as private activists into harassing and penalizing businessmen."

Elsewhere, it calls the measure "the most serious threat to free enterprise and orderly government ever to be proposed in Congress."

The kit says that adversary advocacy of the sort the act proposes would frustrate consumer because "there are not enough available federal funds to support the army of expert consumer advocates necessary to implement this bill . . ."

The adversary advocacy approach also would disrupt

Nixon consumer record appraised

By ANN McFEATTERS
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — "Reluctant at best" is the way the country's largest consumer group describes President Nixon's record on consumer interests.

Reviewing Nixon's 3½ years in office, the staff of the Consumer Federation of America



(CFA), a coalition of 200 groups claiming 35 million members, has scant praise for the President's consumer initiatives. Said the CFA:

"It has taken constant monitor-

ing by congressional committees, individuals in Congress, CFA, the many (Ralph) Nader groups, Common Cause and numerous other public-interest organizations in Washington—plus their lawsuits—to guard against the administration's tendency to forego vigorous enforcement and regulation of existing laws."

The CFA said consumers were asked only once to meet with the President, and it turned out to be "a futile effort for fairness in the wage-price program."

White House spokesmen insist the administration's consumer record is excellent.

Here are highlights of the president's record on consumer matters taken from official presidential papers, White House sources and CFA's compilation.

The Nixon task force on oil imports said quotas cost consumers \$5 billion to \$7 billion a year and recommended they be dropped. A new task force was appointed and voted for retention of the quotas.

In October the President sent Congress a consumer message calling for more consumer protection in the Justice Department, more Federal Trade Commission (FTC) authority and stronger efforts to assure food and drug safety.

Several of Nixon's appointees to the National Commission on Consumer Finance were denounced as being opposed to the Truth-in-Lending Law which created the commission.

Nixon named Miles W. Kirkpatrick to head the FTC, a move hailed by consumer groups. The FTC took on new life.

1970

Mrs. Knauer was given an annual budget of about \$500,000, more than her predecessors, and 17 professional staff members. The administration insisted the country didn't need another consumer agency some proposed; that Mrs. Knauer's group was sufficient.

The government was charged in a suit with not enforcing the Toy Safety Act of 1969. Three days before Christmas, 39 toys were banned as dangerous.

Nixon set up a Product Information Coordinating Center to file and publicize information on products.

force some

Nixon messaged Mrs. into a White

Nixon Institute for study resolution disputes in port is expected

for Consumer pointed but can cause a fourth were involved in federal agencies.

The wage-price freeze announced Aug. 15, 1971, other groups complained enforcement machinery provided.

Nixon opposed the creation of an agency to serve as a watchdog over product safety on grounds there is too much bureaucracy already.

The administration clashed with consumer groups over its support of a bill to compensate soft drink makers for the federal ban on the artificial sweetener cyclamate and over a proposal to spot-check fish processing plants instead of inspecting them continually.

The administration dropped opposition to an independent consumer protection agency and supported a modified bill passed by the House.

1972

The administration cut the FTC's consumer protection budget, angering Kirkpatrick and prompting rumors he would resign.

But the budget for the Federal Drug Administration

administration required the proof containers, aspirin, under the 1970 Poison Prevention Packaging Act, opposition in the Senate, advocates. office more

AFL-CIO News
February 5, 1972

Consumers Ask Voice On Price Commission

The Consumer Federation of America has urged Pres. Nixon to appoint a "consumer specialist" to the vacancy on the Price Commission created by the appointment of Dr. Marina V. N. Whitman to the Council of Economic Advisers.

The organization proposed in a letter to Nixon that the President appoint Mrs. Helen Nelson to the Price Commission and said this might "help restore confidence in the Administration's complex system of economic stabilization."

Mrs. Nelson is well qualified to work "constructively" with the Price Commission, the CFA asserted. It noted that she has a master's degree in economics and heads the Center for Consumer Affairs at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

She was elected president of the Consumer Federation at its recent annual meeting in Washington.

Lansing State Journal
April 13, 1972

Watering Bills

Would you like automobiles to be more dent-resistant and easier to repair? If so, you've got a number of insurance companies and consumer groups on your side, says the Consumer Federation of America. CFA is concerned about possible watering down of a bill now before Congress "which could save consumers 'billions of dollars by making automobiles less damageable and more repairable.'"

Provisions of the bill giving standard-setting powers to the Secretary of Transportation have already been diluted because of auto industry resistance, says Mrs. Erma Angevine, CFA executive director.

Mrs. Angevine wants this standard-setting authority over such damage-averters as automobile bumpers retained in the bill or else the legislation "will be useless." She has urged consumers to call members of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and voice their support for the "bumper standard compromise" in H.R. 11672, the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972.

Margolius, Sullivan Honored By CFA
Washington, D.C., June 9, 1972
—Congresswoman Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.) and columnist-author Sidney Margolius are being honored for their leadership in consumer service and recognition in the CFA's 1972 distinguished awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington on June 14. Master of ceremonies was the program and political humorist and political commentator, John Henry Faulk.

Kentucky Labor News
June 17, 1972

Honored principally for her House Democratic Caucus, and leadership in the battle for truth-in-lending legislation, during her 20 years in the Congress, Mrs. Sullivan has initiated and helped on a number of bills, including the Truth-in-Lending Act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Truth-in-Savings Act. She is also a member of the House Banking and Finance Committee, the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, and the Joint Committee on Consumer and Defense Production.

Watered Clean Water Bill Opposed

By PETER J. BERNSTEIN
Special to Press From
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Key members of an influential House committee who thought they had torpedoed Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's tough clean bill are facing new resistance from a broad coalition of labor, environmental and consumer groups.

Acting under the banner of Citizens Crusade for Clean Waters, more than 40 organizations have launched a lobbying campaign against a weaker anti-pollution bill being drafted by the House Public Works Committee.

The citizen groups, which range in political outlook and size from Ralph Nader's aggressive Raiders, to the AFL-CIO, and the Consumer Federation of America, prefer Muskie's approach.

Adopted by a unanimous vote in the Senate last November, the Muskie bill states unequivocally that no one has the right to pollute, and establishes a tight timetable to achieve an ambitious goal: The total elimination of all waste discharges into the nation's waterways by 1985.

While the House committee has agreed in principle to the 1985 goal, popularly known as "Zero Discharge," it substantially weakened the provision's impact.

Indianapolis Star
September 10, 1972

U.S. Paying Firms For Losses Hit

Washington (AP) — Consumer advocates have renewed their attack on a House-passed bill that would reimburse companies for losses incurred by the 1969 cyclamate ban.



Peter Bernstein

"This session of Congress has been permeated with the spirit of Lockheed," Anita Johnson of Ralph Nader's Health Research Group told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

"ALL KINDS of businessmen are asking for the taxpayers' money when they never dared before," she said. "There is a real danger that the U.S. government will become the absolute insurer of private business losses."

Joining in criticism of the measure, which they estimate could cost the Treasury up to \$150 million, were the Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Action for Food and Drugs, National Consumer League and Community Nutrition Institute.

"IT IS IRONIC that a Congress that would not give consumers the right of redress by allowing class action suits is now so willing to consider allowing industry to recoup its losses from the Federal Treasury," said Erma Angevine, executive director of Consumer Federation of America.

Childproofing In Toxic Sales Seen Lacking

By MILES BENSON
Newhouse News Service

The Poison Prevention Packaging Act, passed by Congress to protect small children from toxic hazards in the home, is well into its second year of statutory life as an unenforced law.

Toxic household products kill 300 children annually and injure hundreds of thousands more. Yet not a single manufacturer of such products has been required to "childproof" the containers they are sold in, as required under the act signed into the law by President Nixon in December 1970.

Food and Drug Administration officials, charged with responsibility for enforcing the law, insist they have moved as rapidly as possible not only to identify the most dangerous household products but to prescribe what constitutes a "childproof" container.

Hit by Consumer Groups

Consumer groups angrily disagree. Organizations such as the Consumer Federation of America say that FDA had been listing dangerous products in the home — aspirin, paint, furniture polish and pharmaceuticals, for example — for years before the Poison Prevention Packaging Act was passed.

They further note that the FDA's procedure for testing childproof containers was worked out by a special task force long before passage of the act.

"I think it's a scandal," said Gladys Kessler, a federation attorney.

Miss Kessler has been investigating the possibility of suing the FDA to force implementation of the law. Aaron Levine, a Washington attorney acting independently, already has filed suit against three large drug store chains in the Washington area to force them to package dangerous prescription drugs in childproof containers.

Delays On 4 Categories

Four times in the past FDA officials have announced preliminary childproofing regulations for products in four categories — aspirin, furniture polish, liniment and controlled drugs.

Each time, a postponement has been granted for each category, and no final orders have been issued on any.

5th in Nation in Supporting Legislation

Mass. Unit Consumer-Minded

By DREW F. STEIS
HT Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The 14-member Massachusetts congressional delegation ranked fifth highest in the nation in voting for legislation favorable to the consumer, the Consumer Federation of America announced.

Concord, New Hampshire
Monitor & Patriot
February 3, 1972

Detroit, Mich.
AFL-CIO NEWS
February 2, 1972

CFA Gives Ford 100%

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The only Michigan congressman to score 100% on eight key votes in 1971 selected by the Consumers Federation of America as most vital to consumers was Democrat William D. Ford.

CFA reported that Ford voted in the interests of consumers on the following eight issues:

Wisconsin's two US senators and three of its representatives voted 100% "right" on the 92nd Congress, according to the Consumer Federation of America. The federation selected eight house bills and seven Senate roll call votes for the rankings. The federation said: Democratic Senators William Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson were among 12 Democrats who scored 100% in the Senate. Democratic Representatives Les Aspin, Robert Kastenmeier and David Obey were among 42 House Democrats from 20 states who scored 100% right. There were no Republicans. Most presidential hopefuls were absent when many of the bills came to a vote. Sen. Henry Jackson had 4 right votes and 3 absences; Sen. Hubert

Consumers Group Rates Legislators

Humphrey, 1 right and 6 absences; Sen. George McGovern, 5 right and 2 absences, and Sen. Edmund Muskie, 2 right and 5 absences. Only Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Shirley Chisholm had 100% right votes among those whom the federation picked as presidential candidates. Among the issues were re-creation of Federal Trade Commission authority to institute actions in US district courts for redress of injury to consumers, inclusion of comprehensive child development programs in poverty programs and creation of a consumer protection agency.

Cotton's consumer bill record

The non-partisan Consumer Federation of America has compiled roll call votes in the U.S. Senate on seven issues affecting consumer interests in the 92nd Congress. The contrast between the records of New Hampshire's two senators is striking.

Democratic Sen. Thomas J. McIntyre scored what the CFA considered "right" on all seven of the votes. Republican Sen. Norris Cotton didn't vote on two of the issues and scored what CFA considered "wrong" on the other five.

Passage of this bill would have created a major national health hazard. It was defeated by a 52-38 vote, according to Congressional Quarterly, the authority on Congress.

The high cost of repairing automobiles damaged in low-speed accidents has become a national problem. The U.S. Department of Transportation would be authorized under one measure to set standards of automobile manufacture to reduce the incidence of low-speed damage and reduce repair costs.

Sen. Cotton voted for the measure. By this vote, we only can assume he favors the continuation of deceptive practices in the marketplace.

Another provision of the same bill would give the FTC authority to seek redress in a U.S. District Court for injury to consumers. In a Senate floor fight on the same day, Nov. 9, Sen. Cotton voted against retaining this provision in the bill.

He also voted in favor of a that would have substituted inspection of fish and fish

depend upon Congress to take whatever steps are necessary to protect our health and safety.

Sen. Cotton had the worst score in New England on this consumer legislation, in a class with conservative Thurmond.

Larry Cheek

Congressional delegation indifferent to consumers

News-Record Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — North Carolina's congressional delegation served consumer interests poorly during the 1971 legislative year, if any weight is given to the report issued last week by the Consumer Federation of America.

The Federation rated congressmen on their roll call votes on eight consumer issues. Senators were examined on seven issues, and only three of the 13 congressmen on Capitol Hill had keen consumer

Other North Carolina congressmen did poorly with the CFA. Republicans Wilmer Mizell (Davidson County) and James Broyhill (Lenoir) were the worst, casting consumer-correct votes only once. Their GOP colleagues, Charles Jonas of Lincoln and Earl Ruth of Salisbury, were 1-43 and 2-6 respectively. Three Democrats, Roy Taylor of Black Mountain, L. H. Fountain of Tarboro and David Henderson of Wallace, were 3-5, 2-3 and 2-3 respectively. Wilmington's Alton Lennon scored 2-33 and Walter Jones of Greenville finished the year 2-8.

Colorado's Senators Rated 'Low' by Consumer Group

Denver Post
January 9, 1972

By LEONARD LARSEN
Denver Post Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Colorado's two Republican senators, Gordon Allott and Peter Dominick, were ranked among the lowest in "pro" consumer votes

in an analysis released Saturday by a national consumer organization. In House of Representatives analysis, Colorado's two senators ranked 50th and 51st out of 100 in the Consumer Federation of America, the four

Colorado congressmen had a so-so record, according to the analysis, voting "pro" consumer on 50 per cent of the selected issues. Among Wyoming legislators, the consumer rating gave high marks to two Democrats, Sen. Gale McGee and U.S. Rep. Teno Roncallo, while asserting that Republican Clifford Hansen voted "wrong" on his votes on five issues and was absent for votes on two others.

We asked Republican and Democratic Party Platform Committees to give firm commitment for more effective consumer protection legislation, adequate funding, and vigorous regulation and enforcement.

don maclean



ONE of my distinguished (and brilliant) editors once told me, "This newspaper often is read at lunchtime and dinner, so please don't write anything nauseating in that idiotic column of yours." Presumably, had I worked for a morning newspaper instead, I could have been as nauseating as I liked.

Perhaps people have stronger stomachs at breakfast than they do at lunchtime. Or maybe the theory is that anyone who gets up early and can actually face breakfast cannot possibly be nauseated by anything. I must admit that this is my view; show me a man who can eat breakfast immediately upon arising and I'll show you a man who doesn't drink, smoke or stay up until 4 a.m.

Anyway, for 15 years I've tried to obey this edict, but, really, the Food & Drug Administration's revelation that there are government and industry-accepted tolerance levels for filth in our prepared foods just cannot be ignored. If I bring today's comments to you while you're eating, then I apologize. However, I myself came upon the FDA's statement while cold sober, shortly before dinner and, instead of getting around a steak, I dashed into my study to bang out these indignant words.

First of all, let me say this: Arrrrrrggggghhhh! In case you came late to the party, as the result of pressure from the Consumer Federation of America, the FDA admitted that it has a blind eye to a certain amount of filth in processed food. The assumption is that it is impossible for some extraneous matter not be included with your serving of Munch-Munchies, or whatever.

For this reason, ever since 1908(!) the FDA has had a secret list of accepted filth levels for various foods. And, what is worse, some manufacturers KNOW the FDA's tolerance of filth is above zero and they know just how much filth FDA inspectors will stand for in the food they're inspecting. Apparently there's no sense even trying for perfection. Talk about defeatism!

What type of filth are we talking about? Well, I'm sure you can imagine, but specifically mentioned: dead insects, bits of rat and mouse; rat and mouse excreta; mould; dust; stones; dirt, wire and string. If all that stuff ever gets into the same package, there won't be room for the corn flakes. Oh, well, maybe cream, sugar and strawberries will disquise it so you'll never know.

The FDA didn't want to release word on the ground that manufacturers' reaction wasn't required might stop stream said, "They'll now know they Myself, I foresee ludicrous episode shovel filth into batches of FDA from real"

Well, I

Consumer Federation of America is mounting a drive to get states to repeal bans on prescription drug advertising as a way to spur price competition. New federation study of drug prices in 17 states found huge variance in prices of common drugs:

- ✓ 100 tetracycline tablets ranged from \$20 to \$2.50, with a median of \$4.75.
- ✓ 100 achromycin tablets ranged from \$17.47 to \$3.47, with a median of \$6.50.

Federation says only way consumers will know where to get the best buy is if drug stores are permitted to advertise drug prices.

Pittsburgh Press
October 8, 1972

Recent court decisions and the Nixon administration support drug price advertising, but decision is generally left to state pharmacy boards, made up of pharmacists.

State Department officials know more than they're telling about what led to the barring from the United States of top-level Syrian official Dia Allah el Fattal, who was due at the United Nations this week.

They cite, without elaboration, U.S. law which allows denial of visa if applicant's presence might be harmful to national security. They are just the latest developments in the continuing quest of a tastier hot dog.

Department's letters from any more hot dog, of chemicals.

Dearborn, My mom hot dogs nobody enough to

partment id: "If ing in have

are just the latest devel-

Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colo.
August 13, 1972

Agriculture rule aimed at frankfurter fans

By ANN McFEATTERS

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — There were indications Saturday that long-suffering frankfurter fans may at some future time find a heartier, heftier, tastier hot dog on the market.

First the Agriculture Department announced that addition of sodium acid pyrophosphate

(SAP) has been approved in the manufacture of the 12 billion frankfurters made each year. SAP will make them rosier and speed the curing process. The order is effective Sept. 12.

Then Rep. Seymour Halpern, D-N.Y., said 30 representatives of the meat producing industry, government agencies and consumer groups will meet Tuesday to discuss ways to make a high protein hot dog that looks and tastes good and is easy to eat at football games.

AVERAGE WIENER

Halpern is upset that the average wiener is 28 per cent fat, 50 per cent water and 11 per cent

opments in the continuing quest of a tastier hot dog.

First the White House ridiculed a proposed limit of 33 per cent fat in hot dogs, and embarrassed Agriculture Department officials dropped it to 30 per cent.

JUDGE RULES

Then a U.S. District Court judge ruled "all meat" hot dogs must be all meat—no more cereal or milk solids added.

Then Consumer Reports magazine did a cover story on frankfurters, based on a laboratory analysis of 32 national brands, saying they are not very wholesome.

Hot dogs, concluded the magazine, provide less protein than equal amounts of poultry, fish, lean beef, lamb, veal, pork or canned tuna.

And then Ralph Nader said he would never eat another hot dog.

Halpern is not about to go that far but he is determined more protein will be required in hot dogs.

He was invited to Tuesday's meeting with Agriculture Department officials, seven or eight of the largest hot dog makers, and representatives from Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America, the White House consumer affairs office and Nader's Center for Study of Responsive Law.

THE NATIONAL OBSERVER Week Ending November 11, 1972

New Commission Could Ban Many Household Items Hazardous

Jersey City Journal
September 9, 1972

Our Washington Bureau
Consumer lobbyists are warning of possible "bushwhacking" of product safety legislation by the House Rules Committee. The bill had been on the committee agenda this past week but suddenly was dropped.

Now the Consumer Federation of America says committee chairman William M. Colmer's aide has put it in writing that the panel will take up the bill Tuesday. They are worried that delays could help kill the bill as Congress nears the end of its session.

legislation would establish an independent agency instead.

"Rules members are known to have come under heavy industry pressure to oppose the bill," CFA leaders said. "That, in addition to strenuous White House position

Grand Rapids Press
March 16, 1972

New Consumer Safety Agency Instead of FDA Gains in Senate

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A move to create an independent agency empowered to regulate the safety of food, drugs, cosmetics and other consumer products won an initial victory in Congress Wednesday, despite administration claims that it would be a crushing setback to consumer safety.

The legislation, tentatively approved by the Senate Commerce Committee and likely to be passed on to the full Senate today, would dismember the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill's sponsor, Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, D-Wash., contends the independent agency that would be created in FDA's place would be able to regulate business more strictly since it would no longer be part of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and no longer would be subject to HEW and White House pressure.

the new agency is being set into motion. It would have an adverse impact on the public health and the public purse." The Consumer Federation of America, however, issued a statement attacking Richardson's claims and saying it was solidly behind Magnuson's measure. "Consumers need an agency with a commitment to the public's welfare," it said. "FDA has not shown that commitment."

Ann Arbor News
September 10, 1972

Consumers Pressuring House To Act On Bill

By Robert P. Hey
(Christian Science Monitor Service)
WASHINGTON, D.C. — As Congress reconvenes, consumer interests are putting the pressure on Democratic House Speaker Carl Albert. It is a last-ditch effort to pry from the House Rules Committee a major consumer bill. This one would establish a federal product safety agency to make certain that consumer products on the American marketplace are safe. It is widely thought that if the Rules Committee would only approve it, the full House could do likewise. But at this late date in the legislative

year, the only feasible way to pry the bill from the committee seems to be to have Speaker Albert insist on approval by the Rules Committee chairman, Rep. William Colmer.

The consumer effort is strenuous. But the bill appears to be dying in light of cancellation by the Rules Committee of a hearing on the bill, which had been scheduled for Sept. 6.

The cancellation came at 3:30 p.m. after most in Washington had scattered for the long Labor Day weekend. Thus there were few representatives of consumer or-

ganizations left to protest the cancellation and fewer members of Congress to whom they could protest. Consumer interests feel sure this timing was intentional.

A spokesman for the House Rules Committee said the product safety bill was dropped from the agenda for the Sept. 6 meeting because "apparently a number of our members can't be here." The House was on vacation from Aug. 18 until Sept. 5 at noon.

The consumer pressure on Speaker Albert, undertaken by the Consumer Federation of America, is two-pronged: direct, through a letter to him from the federation; and in-

direct by their urging consumer interests to put their own pressure on him.

The federation last Tuesday delivered to Albert a letter it sent that day to a number of organizations, some 35 million members, asking them to contact their representatives of having record this year.

The Nixon record, Albert said, if the safety bill does not pass this year, is the fault for leadership from the Rules Committee.

Portland, Maine
Press-Herald
March 24, 1972

Consumer Advocates Gird For Safety Battle With Administration

By ROBERT P. HEY
Monitor News Service
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A sharp dispute here centers on how best to protect U.S. consumers against — Ladders that aren't tested the way they're used — leaving record on protection to see why

TYPICAL is the view of Erma Ambrose, executive director of Consumer Federation of America. "Consumers need an independent agency," she said after the Richardson blast, "to handle the safety of food, drugs, and other products. We have only to look at Food and Drug Administration's deadly record on protection to see why

Senate Loses Fight For Consumer Bill

By ANN McFEATTERS
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON — Consumer advocates today mourned the death of the consumer protection bill after fighting for it for a decade, and some wearily suggested it may be doomed for years.

Once thought to be on its way to certain victory, the bill to give consumers representation in the government's massive regulatory processes was killed in the Senate yesterday, although, ironically, the majority of senators supported it.

Filibuster Vote

The vote was on a move to end a filibuster which was preventing a vote on the bill. The vote was 52 to 30 to end the talks, but cloture needs two-thirds of those present, so for the third time in two weeks a stop-the-talk move failed by three or four votes.

This persuaded the Senate leadership there was little chance of stopping the filibuster in the rush to adjourn Congress for election campaigning although they were convinced the bill would have passed.

Two years ago the Senate passed the bill, 74 to 4, and the House Rules Committee blocked it. In this session the House passed it last year, 344-44, but the Senate failed to act.

Supporters of the proposed consumer protection agency said it is needed to protect consumers in thousands of decisions made by the government which have a direct bearing on their lives.

In many cases only industry representatives have any influence on these decisions, they said.

Opposition to the Senate bill was led by Sen. James B. Allen, who said the agency which the Senate version visualized would be "nothing more than a disruptive force empowered to wander to and fro through the halls of government whenever it takes a mind to engage administrative agencies in guerrilla warfare."

His amendment to weaken the agency failed to pass the Senate.

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA), largest consumer coalition in the country, bitterly attacked the administration and groups such as the Grocery Manufacturers of America, National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, textile manufacturers and the American Retail Federation which worked to defeat the bill. CFA said consumers had been "steamrollered."

Javits said there might still be a slim chance of slipping the bill through this session but most of the backers said it is finished.

They said the bill definitely will be reintroduced next year, but some doubted whether many of the senators and congressmen who have pushed it will have the same energy battle for it for a third time.

Free Press
Burlington, Vt.
August 5, 1972

Consumer Group Claims Evidence Proves Tire Safety Often 'Myth'

By MARION MARTIN
Free Press-Gannett Service

WASHINGTON — Is tire safety a myth? The largest national consumer group says that "for many consumers" it is. The Consumer Federation of America reports that, despite the much-touted federal tire safety and testing program, there's evidence that "consumers are shelling out enormous sums for defective tires." They're also "getting little satisfaction and much ruminant when tires go bad, and very little assurance that any tire is reasonably safe," says CFA.

One step consumers can take, CFA suggests, is to write the federal government regarding its proposed stiffened requirements for defect notifications. Nearly 194,000 tires were recalled in 1971, CFA says, and the proposed federal rule would require customer notification by certified mail of the nature of the defect and the repairs that are necessary.

The Washington-based CFA has more letter-writing in mind for consumers. Important consumer legislation includes bills creating a consumer product safety agency and a consumer protection agency. Now awaits final congressional action. "We urge you," CFA writes its members, "to spice up your summer with a few letters to your congressmen." Congress will be back in session between political conventions. "If consumer bills are to be passed, consumers must put pressure on legislators," CFA says.

Miami News
June 28, 1972

A consumer bill of rights, formed by the Consumer Federation of America, is being presented to both political parties, which the CFA says it hopes each will consider at their national conventions.

Mrs Erma Ancevine CFA

president, said the bill of rights urges less reliance on "self regulation" and voluntary compliance, and will push for an independent consumer protection agency, an independent product safety agency, additional funding for regulatory agencies, and legislation to require open dating, unit pricing, ingredient and nutrient listing, and quality grading of food, among other points.

Support for independent consumer agency urged at annual Farmer-Labor Institute

By CARLA BECK
Tribune Staff Writer

The executive director of the Consumer Federation of America Saturday night urged support for a strong, independent consumer agency in Congress in 1973.

Erma Angevine, Washington, D.C., in a banquet speech at the Montana Farmer-Labor Institute here blamed defeat of the Consumer Protection Agency Bill in Congress this fall on the "divide and conquer" tactics of big business of setting "consumers" and "farmers" and "the labor movement" against one another by scaring each away from supporting the agency.

Why is a consumer protection agency so important? Mrs. Angevine explained it this way, "Most of us don't make much. We have to watch our wallets every day."

She informed her listeners why they weren't rich and why they weren't likely to be:

Figures from the Cambridge Institute indicate there has been no significant progress toward equality in the distribution of income and wealth in America for more than a generation. The top fifth of American families receives close to half of all wages and salaries and 65 per cent of all unearned or property income.

"There is a much greater concentration of wealth than income. The top 20 per cent of wealth holders own over three quarters of personal wealth. More than half of this personal wealth is in investment assets and equity in businesses. The top fifth of families held 97 per cent of corporate stock in the last 10 years.

"Think of it! One-fifth of the population controls three fourths of the nation's wealth. The rest of us — the other four-fifths — must struggle to get by on what's left," Mrs. Angevine challenged.

The consumer advocate spelled out another aspect of the "struggle to get by on what's left."

"Testimony before the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee in 1970 indicated that at least 10 per cent and perhaps 30 to 40 per cent of all consumer spending is wasted on excessively priced and deceptively advertised products and improperly performed and unnecessary services," she said.

Reminding that \$1 billion is 1,000 million dollars, Mrs. Angevine said testimony pointed out: Monopolistic pricing costs consumers \$45 billion a year. Auto repair and maintenance which is improperly done, unneeded or not done at all, costs consumers \$8 to \$10 billion a year. Unnecessary insurance coverage through duplication by more

than one policy costs an estimated \$1 to \$3 billion a year. Worthless or misrepresented medical devices and drugs cost \$1 billion a year.

"But big business — principally the large trade associations such as the National Association of Manufacturers, Grocery Manufacturers of America and the Chamber of Commerce, and business magnates from Sears, Proctor & Gamble, J. C. Penney, Ford Motors, General Mills, American Cyanamid and Armstrong Cork — could not tolerate a consumer advocate," Mrs. Angevine charges.

She told how Sen. Herman Talmadge of Georgia had hinted that farmers should not support a consumer bill because such an agency could cause delays and court appeals in agricultural marketing orders that could bring financial ruin to the doorstep of every farmhouse in a marketing order area.

She called his idea misleading and referred to consumer hearings now going on in Louisiana. She said that out of these hearings may come improvement in the farmer's price for his milk because consumers are helping expose the squeeze put on farmers and consumers by the big supermarkets and large national dairies.

She said another target of consumers in Louisiana is Dairymen, Inc., an out-of-state organization which would "like

nothing better than to pit the independent farmer and the consumer against one another. DI is now being sued by a group of dairy farmers for DI practices that have hurt their farms."

She claimed farmers and consumers will both benefit by uniting to expose exploitation by big processors and middlemen who have so much control over regulation.

She also told how opponents of the consumer agency bill, such as Sen. William Borck of Tennessee, claimed the agency would be able to intervene in the activities of the National Labor Relations Board and would be able to appeal (to the courts) agency decisions which it considered inimical to the interests of consumers, such as excessive wage settlements.

Mrs. Angevine said his implication was clear, but false, that businessmen would gain while workers suffered. "The senator should have said that the working man will find that wages will give him a lot more value, thanks to a new independent consumer protection agency."

Arkansas Gazette
April 9, 1972

FPC Plan on Gas Attacked

WASHINGTON (AP) — A consumer spokesman said Friday that a proposal by the Federal Power Commission to allow higher natural gas prices to stimulate production was premature and a giveaway to the industry.

The Commission Thursday proposed a rule which would permit higher rates on the interstate sale of natural gas if the higher prices spur the industry to bring more gas into the market.

The FPC said its proposal was intended to stimulate more exploration and development of new natural gas sources.

The American Gas Association called the proposal "a constructive step forward to provide greater economic incentives toward relieving the natural gas shortage."

But Ed Berlin, an attorney for the Consumer Federation of America, said the FPC had allowed gas producers to increase prices, plus forgiving some \$400 million in refund obligations, when it accepted a settlement in July of natural gas rates for the southern Louisiana area, one of the seven areas for price regulation. The Federation has filed a lawsuit challenging that settlement.

There has not been enough time, Berlin said, to determine whether the financial incentives allowed in the southern Louisiana case would stimulate greater production.

"I consider it shocking," he said, "that the Commission would even suggest the necessity of further incentives in view

of their acceptance of the industry's tendered settlement offer less than a year ago.

"First they said, 'How much do you need, to bring in more gas?' And they gave them the increases they said were necessary," Berlin said. "Now they're saying, 'Don't worry, boys, you can have all you want.'"

The FPC and the gas industry have been pointing to a growing gap between gas reserves and demand as part of a threatening energy crisis. The industry says prices charged to interstate pipeline companies are historically low.

In its proposed plan, the FPC said prices above \$1.50 per million Btu would be paid immediately.

WASHINGTON, March 21 — The House Commerce Committee voted today to kill legislation designed to encourage the production of automobiles that are less prone to costly damage in crashes than present models are.

Democratic supporters of the bill called the action a setback.

hold public hearings on the issue and that it could reach a decision as soon as the period for comment ended. But, he said some delay appeared more likely.

A Bill to Cut Auto Repairs Is Shelved by House Panel

By JOHN D. MORRIS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 21 — If they fail to win reconsideration, the bill "is a dead issue for this session," according to its principal sponsor, Representative John E. Moss, Democrat of California.

The insurance industry and consumer advocates, including Ralph Nader, are lobbying for the bill's revival but unsuccessfully.

Mr. Nader charged that the modifications approved in subcommittee had been drafted by

Presidential Candidates Report

By ESTELLE JACKSON
Times-Dispatch
Consumer Columnist

How do the presidential candidates stand on consumer issues?

The Consumer Federation of America polled the presidential hopefuls and found that only Sen. George McGovern (D-S. Dak.) flatly endorses the concept of an independent product safety agency, with complete jurisdiction over governmental programs for safety of foods, drugs and other consumer products.



dependent product safety agency, with complete jurisdiction over governmental programs for safety of foods, drugs and other consumer products.

government surveillance of product safety must cease fragmented and ineffective," says McGovern.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) supports the concept of government-established safety standards but suggests this could be a function of the proposed independent consumer protection agency.

Sen. S. Muskie is no longer active for the establishment of an independent consumer protection agency.

Sen. Nader charged that the modifications approved in subcommittee had been drafted by

St. Louis Globe-Democrat
August 7, 1972

Uncle Sam fighting utility rate hikes

Editor's Note: Want to keep utility rates down? You have an ally in the nation's largest single user of utilities, as the following

from consumer writer G. David Wallace shows.

By G. DAVID WALLACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON. — The nation's telephone, gas and electric companies want to raise rates by \$5 billion this year, and Uncle Sam's housekeeper has the best organized and equipped team to oppose increases.

Other forces lined up

against the utilities' push for more money are consistently outgunned financially, unorganized nationwide and undermanned.

BUT NOT SO for the nation's largest single utility user, the federal government, whose General Services Administration has over-all responsibility for the \$2.3 billion a year that the government spends on all utilities, including trucks and trains.

the GSA. "A decrease for the government is a decrease for consumers."

SEN. LEE Metcalf (Dem.), Montana, and Edward Berlin, attorney for the Consumer Federation of America, say the government is a consumer advocate only up to a point. Metcalf is pushing a bill to set up a consumer utility counsel in the proposed federal consumer protection agency.

Metcalf and Berlin are dissatisfied with the government's performance in the second half of what becomes a two-part decision when a utility requests a rate increase.

position antagonistic to the general consumer," said Berlin. "On that level the government acts like any other big industrial customer," seeking rate reductions for volume usage.

There are some indications residential customers don't fare too well in the system of utility rate hearings.

The Federal Communications Commission learned in its inquiry into the AT&T's rate of return, for example, that he Bell system earned 10 per cent on its long distance service. The rate of return was .3 per cent for Bell's Telpak, bulk communications circuitry rented to big subscribers.

Washington
Evening Star
May 28, 1972

Magnuson to Fight Any No-Fault Stall

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG
Star Staff Writer

Sen. Warren Magnuson of Washington, chairman of the Commerce Committee yesterday made it clear that he would resist any attempts to divert the national no-fault auto insurance bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The measure was passed by the Commerce Committee on Wednesday and headed for the Senate floor. The possibility that it wouldn't get there was raised Friday by Sen. Roman J. Hruska, R-Neb.

Hruska, ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said he would study the measure over the weekend to determine whether its impact on the nation's judicial system was such that the Judiciary Committee should look it over.

That was enough to draw an angry reaction from labor and consumer groups, particularly the Consumer Federation of America. Mrs. Erma Angevine, CFA executive director, said her group was "appalled that any United States senator would resort to the same stalling tactics used in state after state to stop no-fault insurance."

Notes State Cases

She said that any effort to derail the no-fault measure by sending it to the Judiciary Committee could only be interpreted as a stall.

She was referring to the fact that organized trial attorneys and others trying to stop no-fault insurance in the states succeeded by getting the measure referred to judiciary committees.

Washington
Evening Star
June 11, 1972

Nixon Criticized on Call For State No-Fault Action

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG
Star Staff Writer

A Republican senator, a state insurance commissioner and a consumer spokesman have attacked President Nixon's stand against federal no-fault auto legislation.

They were reacting to Nixon's telegram to the National Governors Conference last week in which he called no fault auto insurance "an idea whose time has come" but urged the states to act and opposed "involving the Federal government in this insurance reform."

GOP Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska, a no fault proponent, said he agreed with the Presi-

pletely phony because it should be obvious to everyone that nothing is going to happen without national legislation requiring state action."

And Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, said prospects for state action now are extremely dim because most of the legislatures have gone home.

"If President Nixon is really interested in setting up an effective no fault system—not just claiming he's for reform and then doing little or nothing about it—he should join consumers in supporting the Senate Commerce Committee bill," Mrs. Angevine said.

Lawyer Lobby Behind No-Fault Defeat?

Washington, D. C. —UPI— Sixty-four members of the Senate are lawyers — and that alone, some senators say, caused the demise last week of a bill to establish national no-fault auto insurance.

Its enactment would have put a lot of lawyers out of work.

Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) believes that "friendly persuasion" from lawyers who had gone to law school with senators, who were home state campaign contributors and who in some instances had never before sought a favor, was a key factor in the death of his bill.

lott (Colo.), Henry M. Bellmon (Okla.), Charles Mathias (Md.) and Robert T. Stafford (Vt.).

Sent to Committee

Of course, lobbying was intense from the other side, too. The Consumer Federation of America; Common Cause, the "Citizens' lobby"; the car and truck rental leasing association, and a number of labor unions pulled all the stops.

But the nation's trial lawyers — who stand to lose \$1 billion a year in legal fees if auto negligence suits are no longer argued in court — proved most effective.

Philadelphia News
July 17, 1972

No-Fault Lobbyists Pressure Solons

By ROBERT A. BARNES
Congressional Quarterly

WASHINGTON — A vigorous lobbying battle is under way in Congress over whether to require no-fault automobile insurance of the nation's 100 million motorists. Pressure on legislators rival those at the state level, where the controversy has raged the last two years. The fight centers both on the merits and on competing financial interests of insurance companies and of many trial lawyers.

A Department of Transportation survey said about one-sixth of all legal fees of \$6-billion a year may involve auto negligence litigation. No-fault supporters say trial lawyers' opposition to a preponderantly no-fault principle is based partly on the slash in litigation — and in their income — that would result.

Opponents note the Transportation Department study showed most insurance claims are settled without a lawyer,

"No-fault insurance is an idea whose time has come," President Nixon wired the National Governors Conference on June 7. Urging speedy state action, he added, "The concept has been gaining wide acceptance, despite the fact that some powerful groups — with a special interest in maintaining the present system — have arrayed themselves against reform."

Main organizations backing a national no-fault law along the lines of S 945 were the American Insurance Association, Consumers Federation of America, Consumers Union, Common Cause, Automobile Manufacturers Association, American Trucking Association, Hertz and Avis car rental companies and labor unions.

FIGHTING A NATIONAL no-fault law and urging state-level action retaining substantial grounds for claims related to fault were the National Association of Independent Insurers, American Trial Lawyers Association, the Nixon administration, governors and most state insurance commissioners.

Eight Groups Seek FPC Consumer Seat

Eight consumer-oriented groups, have asked President Nixon to fill a vacant seat on the Federal Power Commission with a consumer representative.

In a letter to Nixon, the group said the FPC is overloaded with industry representatives.

Noting the agency is supposed to protect investors in regulated industries, the letter adds that many FPC appointees have experience only in the industry they supposedly regulate.

Signing the letter were Shelby E. Southard for the Cooperative League, Robert D. Partridge, general manager of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; Alex Radin, executive director, the American Public Power Ass'n; Erma Angevine, president, National Consumer Federation of America; Tony Dechant, president, National Farmers Union, and representatives of the Washington office of the Consumers Union, the American Public Ass'n and AFL-CIO.

Consumers Affected

The gas price increases affect a wide range of consumers, from homeowners who heat their homes and cook with gas to industries, which use it as boiler fuel to some public electric power systems which use gas-fired generating systems.

Asked for comment on the complaint, the American Gas Assn., a trade group of gas distributors mentioned in the petition, said industry representatives "are the only ones who have the data."

The industry task force members are not viewed as policy makers, APGA Public Relations Director Reginald Green said. Instead, they operate under strict guidelines established by the FPC, which then "is supposed to make a judicious judgment" based on the information, Green added.

The three protesting groups have asked the power commission for a rehearing on its procedures for the survey, which it is estimated will take at least another year.

The survey is considered vital in estimating reserves of natural gas and therefore in determining whether price increases are justified. The industry says the increases are necessary because of a dangerous decline in supplies.

Los Angeles Times
February 17, 1972

Natural Gas Study Rigged, Groups Claim

Exclusive to The Times from the
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Consumer and public power groups charge that a government survey of natural gas reserves is loaded in favor of industry and have asked the Federal Power Commission to correct the imbalance.

Specifically, the groups criticized the makeup of task forces which will conduct the survey, saying the committees are dominated by some 120 executives of major oil and gas pipeline companies.

The petition filed by the Consumer Federation of America, the American Public Gas Assn. and the American Public Power Assn. also attacked the FPC decision that the basic information developed in the survey will be kept secret. As a result, it contends the public and other government agencies will be unable to evaluate the survey's validity.

Consumer units score moving van operators

By KAY MILLS

OF OUR WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Household moving companies should lose money when they make late deliveries, be subject to a small claims arbitration service and be publicly rated on the quality of their service, two of the nation's largest consumer groups say.

In separate comments filed at the Interstate Commerce Commission, Consumers Union and the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) each backed the Department of Transportation's efforts to prod ICC into tightening regulation of the

situation is so bad, Consumers Union says, that it has issued what it called a "hard-nosed 'self-defense' manual for moving day."

"From the frequency with which representatives of industry have bombarded this agency with requests to weaken the regulations," wrote CFA's lawyer, Gladys Kessler, "it would seem that industry's prime concern has been to find ways to evade the letter of the regulations rather than to face up to the legitimate complaints" of thousands of consumers.

Both groups contend that despite some new ICC regulations issued in 1970, and abuses remain "unchanged and unremedied."

Among specific whip-crack measures recommended

● "The only way that industry is going to be forced to honor its own schedule which it has offered the householder is to impose penalties for lateness," CFA said. It suggested \$100 a day after a 24-hour period plus compensation for food and lodging required because of the delay.

Consumers Union suggested \$25 a day per family member, adding "Such a move has the backing of the Defense Department, the movers' biggest customer, and of the Department of Transportation as well."

● ICC should establish a small claims arbitration service to handle complaints from people who say their furniture is lost or arrived damaged, Consumers Union said.

● Both groups backed the Transportation Department proposal for publishing comparative service records to help consumers select a moving company.

"The Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration have both followed this course, and there is nothing novel or earthshaking about it," Miss Kessler wrote. She cited as policies supporting such lists the Freedom of Information Act, the Consumer Product Information Act, and the Executive Order on the subject.

when faced with pay-up-or-else situations by companies ignoring the letter of the law. It would enable "an authoritative government official (to) explain to a recalcitrant driver or agent exactly what the consumer's rights are and what the ICC requirements are."

● End economic incentives for underestimating costs of moving by reducing salesmen's commissions in proportion to the amount his estimate was wrong, CFA suggested.

"ICC has the power to bar or suspend shippers from doing business. This is a drastic remedy. It is also one of ultimate effectiveness," Miss Kessler added. She urged its adoption when there are repeated complaints against a company and "investigation reveals that no efforts are being made to improve..."

The ICC, which hears less from consumer organizations than regulatory agencies more in the public eye, will consider these suggestions along with those from industry in deciding whether to issue new rules.

Earlier this month, it began an investigation into practices by United Van Lines to determine why it was receiving so many complaints.

A similar probe into Allied Van Lines of Chicago opens hearings there Oct. 16.

In August, ICC issued a cease and desist order against practices of Aero-Mayflower several weeks of hearings.

Baltimore News-American
June 19, 1972

Railroads Ask Rate Hike, Consumers 'Shut Out'

Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — The Interstate Commerce Commission will act soon on proposed railroad freight rate increases — following hearings marked by shippers requesting reductions and average consumers asking nothing at all because they weren't there.

The railroads want the increase ranging as high as 10 per cent on some goods, because of mounting labor costs. ICC can either approve the rate increase request as is, trim it or deny it entirely.

In two days of dry, legalistic testimony just ended, the railroads outlined their case.

● Trade associations affected by the rate hike, in effect, why should we

pay more when competitors pay less."

● And consumer said nothing at all. It's not that the major consumer groups weren't welcome, the ICC spokesman said. "Sure, they may have put a notice in the Federal Register but we just don't have the personnel to catch every announcement and testify at every hearing," a Consumer Federation of America representative said.

Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., said such cases where "substantial consumer interest" apparently is at stake and "underrepresented at a government agency" underscore the critical need for creation of the consumer protection Agency.

Controls a Failure, Consumers Assert

By BETTY JAMES
Star Staff Writer

The administration's wage-price program to stabilize the economy is a failure, the Consumer Federation of America contended in a major resolution passed yesterday in the closing session of its annual conference here.

"The program has resulted in stringent restrictions on wage increases, while allowing prices and profits to increase virtually without restraint," the CFA asserted in the resolution, approved by several hundred delegates.

the wage-price program called it a failure in both concept and enforcement, and said it should be supplanted with a tougher effort not geared to voluntary compliance and not weighted in favor of business. Consumers should have an equal part in the machinery along with business, labor and government itself, it said.

Inequities Charged

The organization asserted that the roots of the country's economic troubles, such as the power of big business and big agriculture, haven't been touched.

must be halted, CFA said, and the federal government must roll back high interest rates, reduce basic energy costs and vigorously enforce anti-trust laws.

CFA also said the government must establish machinery to guard against both out-

right and undercover violations, and must make public meaningful data, to assure compliance.

Newsday
Long Island, New York
June 30, 1972

Price Controls Put on Fresh Produce

By Kenneth C. Crowe

In another indication of the administration's concern with rising food prices, President Nixon yesterday brought previously exempt fresh produce, eggs and seafood under Phase II price controls at the wholesale and retail levels, while leaving prices at the

Pittsburgh Press
March 24, 1972

Grumbling May Turn To Stampede

Consumer Beef Protest Lacks Muscle

By ANN McFEATHERS
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Talk of a nationwide consumer protest against high meat prices has produced more grumbling than significant action — so far.

But announcement that meat accounted for three-fourths of the increase in food prices last month — the largest monthly rise in the cost of eating since March, 1958 — is building steam behind what was only a notion early this week.

And the government cast that figure even higher last month is fueling the fire further.

macaroni, spaghetti and peanut butter when combined with animal proteins such as dairy products.

That same day, Safeway food stores, which operates in 28 states, suggested their customers buy "inflation fighters" such as scrapple or bologna although the company said nothing against buying beef.

And in Erie gathered for Executives 10 women

And there were rumblings from some consumer and labor groups that switching to other forms of protein is "skirting the issue."

The Consumer Federation of America said the only solution lies in government controls of raw agricultural products.

The Price Commission is forbidden

The nation's consumers are angry that their wages are strictly while the prices they pay — especially for groceries — are going "up, up, up," a spokesman for the Consumer Federation of America says in an interview. "The regulations are designed to baffle, while price increases are being executed." Mrs. Robinson is president of the Consumer Federation of America. "CFA rejects the idea of a nationwide consumer protest," she says. "The regulations are designed to baffle, while price increases are being executed." Mrs. Robinson is president of the Consumer Federation of America. "CFA rejects the idea of a nationwide consumer protest," she says.

costs would continue. Administration officials said the order would have no immediate impact on the prices of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and seafood, but, for the first time, the markup on those items and retailers' profit margins on them will be reported to the Price Commission and subject to the commission's regulations, which are designed to prevent exorbitant profits. It was the second time this week that the administration had moved in the area of food prices. On Monday, Nixon eliminated quotas on meat imports for the balance of the year in an attempt to curb rising meat prices.

The President's action yesterday was described as "cosmetic" by the Consumer Federation of America's executive director, Mrs. Erma Angevine. And the public relations director for the National Association of Food Chains, Timothy D. McEnroe, said, "Aside from producing a lot of administrative problems in terms of paper work [for supermarket chains], I don't see where it's going to have any effect at all from a consumer's point of view."

an adv sume meat substit lentils, Frustration With Phase II

March 16, 1972

Secretary Earl Butz's role in the campaign, she says. CFA rejects the idea of a nationwide consumer protest, she says.

Consumers Criticize Price Panel

By ROBERT ADAMS
A Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

LAST OF THREE ARTICLES
WASHINGTON, May 9

UNLIKE THE PAY BOARD, the Price Commission has been run with a relatively well-oiled administrative machine. But unlike the Pay Board, the Price Commission has placed a large amount of decision-making power in the hands of its chair-

man. Service — the enforcement arm of Mr. Nixon's wage and price restraint effort — between Nov. 15, 1971, and last April 21. Only 2341 of them concerned wages. Fully 47,861 were about prices, and 34,223 were about rents, both of which are under control of the Price Commission.

"WE STILL FEEL that the price-control program is mainly rhetoric and window-dressing," says Mrs. Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America. "If there's anything being done, the consumer can't see it." A basic target of attack is the structure

"We feel consumers should be formally represented on the Price Commission, as labor and business were represented on the Pay Board," Mrs. Angevine said. "At first, we asked for equal membership, then for even one member. And we haven't achieved either."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
May 9, 1972

Advertising Age
August 7, 1972

Consumerists feel self regulation ad program is not getting results

By STANLEY E. COHEN
Washington Editor

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—The advertising industry's program of self regulation has produced few tangible results, so far as the public knows. Now there are signs consumerists, who have been biding their time, will soon begin rendering verdicts.

Mark Silbergeld, a Ralph Nader associate, still waits for word from three of ten test cases he submitted last November, and

panel review verdicts in others. "I am not speaking out," he says. "I'm waiting to see how long they take when they are not pushed."

Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, is accumulating an equally interesting dossier. On May 15, Charles Yost, chairman, National Advertising Review Board, assured the Senate commerce committee that failure to act on any of the 27 cases she

submitted since February was due to a "misunderstanding." Ten weeks later, she has had reports on only three of them. At one instance, it was a claim since April which regulators merely can't handle. FTC is already

■ Under the self regulators' cases. This reaction who prefer to

Miami News
June 7, 1972

Counter-commercials urged by Federation

By PAT GUROSKY
Miami News Reporter

Will the public someday be able to "talk back" to advertisers on television, to correct claims the public might think are misleading or non-informative?

That's what Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, told a Senate committee recently.

When the public is assured the right to "talk back through counter-commercials," Mrs. Angevine said, "the advertising industry might then indeed set its own house in order."

The CFA is urging the three major networks to use carefully prepared counter commercials on public service time to balance false and deceptive commercials.

Mrs. Angevine asserts that "the combination of truth-in-advertising and counter advertising might well eliminate one of the most destructive aspects of mass advertising—the tendency of manufacturers to use advertising

as a substitute for making quality products."

Advertising Age
May 1, 1972

Counter ad battle continues; nets reject consumer spots

By STANLEY E. COHEN
Washington Editor

WASHINGTON, April 27—Three tv networks have rejected a Burt Lancaster-narrated spot warning the public about defective Chevrolet engine mounts, but consumerists made it clear this week that they are geared up for a concerted effort to get counter ad messages into major media.

Tracy A. Weston, director, Stern Community Law Firm, said networks will be asked to reconsider their decisions, but that the dispute over the Chevrolets will go to the Federal Communications Commission and the courts if necessary, and that other legal approaches are contemplated. In addition, he disclosed that radio and print versions have been prepared, and that a second set of Burt Lancaster-narrated spots devoted to headache remedies will be reaching the networks shortly.

■ The initial setback brought into the open the elaborate arrangements which have been developing among consumerists to bring the media access problem to a head. A letter to tv networks by Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, was made available today by Mr. Weston. The letter registered support for the

Stern Community Law Firm effort, and told network heads CFA believes "the public must have access to broadcast media to present counter arguments when commercial advertising raises controversial issues such as matters of environmental protection or nutritional habits, makes claims based on scientific premises currently subject to debate within the scientific community, or is silent on negative aspects of

the advertised product."

Mrs. Angevine said CFA hopes networks will begin using materials like those submitted by the Stern people "to help balance present commercial presentations." She concluded her letter with a nine-line paragraph itemizing the list of unions and consumer groups which support CFA.

The Chevrolet auto mount and

Advertising Age
September 25, 1972

Angevine blasts NAD work quality; seeks NARB review of Mobil, Arco

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Erma Angevine, executive director, Consumer Federation of America, who has yet to win a decision from the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, today blasted the quality of NAD staff work, and asked the National Advertising Review Board to convene a panel to determine what needs to be done to enable consumers to choose between the gasolines and gasoline additives paraded before him.

Her immediate concern was a ruling by NAD rejecting her complaint against claims for Mobil detergent gasoline. Meanwhile, she also received notice that NAD has rejected her complaint against ads for Arco Supreme gasoline.

In a letter to NARB Chairman Charles Yost, she noted she has questioned what appear to be conflicting claims for five different gasolines. She said the com-

parative claims for these products and the comparative substantiation by the advertisers can't possibly be evaluated if each is judged separately.

In her protest against rejection of the Mobil complaint, Ms. Angevine questioned the adequacy of NAD's investigation. She said NAD relied solely on Mobil's research to substantiate performance claims, and did not solicit technical materials from anyone except Mobil.

Advertising Age
August 21, 1972

NAD okays Breck claim; takes final look at Ban

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—The National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus has upheld ad claims for Breck One (dandruff shampoo), but in two other ad substantiation situations—involving Ultra Ban Roll-On and Ultra Ban 3000—it has been given a last opportunity to take another look. All three rulings submitted to the National Advertising Review Board by Erma Angevine, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America, were released by Ms. Angevine today, together with a letter from Charles Yost, chairman of the National Advertising Review Board, advising her that an appeals panel will review two earlier rulings upholding the Ultra Ban commercials, unless NAD comes up with more supporting information "in the immediate future" (AA, June 12).

■ Ms. Angevine said today that she isn't prepared to accept the staff ruling on Breck One, partly because the NAD staff supports its finding with a statement which doesn't square with the ad claim it is supposed to be reviewing.