

## FAC OPENS DRIVE

# Price inflation targeted by another new group

Formed within the month, the new consumer group Food Action Campaign hopes to mobilize public opinion for anti-trust action against the food industry which, if it hasn't already, may soon capture the rather dubious status of being America's biggest and most costly monopoly.

For starters, FAC is in the business of producing facts, data and rationale about the food industry and its impact on consumers' pocketbooks.

FAC coordinator James Hightower charges that consumers paid \$2-billion in higher prices last year, for example, because of today's concentrated food economy.

Why?

"The 1967 Census of Manufacturing," says FAC, "counted 32,500 food manufacturing firms. Even though the number of firms is declining at the rate of 13% a year, it would seem by sheer numbers to be a competitive industry. A 1966 study by the Federal Trade Commission, however, revealed that a mere 100 of those firms had 71% of the industry's profits. In fact, the top 50 firms had 61% of the profits.

"That is where food power is located, and it is with this concentration of power that consumers must deal. Fostered by government policy, that concentration is continuing. A steadily narrowing number of corporations control the flow of food from farmer to consumer--in a word, it is oligopoly."

FAC, also encouraging the firing of Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz, is sponsored by three existing groups: Agribusiness Accountability Project, Project on Corporate Responsibility, and New Populist Action. FAC leaders urge similar curb-conglomerates-and-cut food prices campaigns in the states.

One of FAC's five "public advocates," Kay Pachtner, head of San Francisco Consumer Action and also a CFA director, has already organized a California campaign with plans for a September 24 "people's hearing" to air the public's gripes and frustrations on food prices and corporate profits.

FAC is singling out Del Monte as the symbol of an agribusiness giant. Del Monte is the largest canner in the world, responsible for 16% of all US sales of canned fruits and vegetables, with 1972 sales of \$947-million.

FAC can be contacted: 1000 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington DC 20007, (202) 338-3976. In addition to Ms. Pachtner, FAC "public advocates" include: former Sen. Fred Harris of New Populist Action, Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary James McHale, Harlem Consumers Education Council president Florence Rice and La Raza Unida president Jose Angel Gutierrez.



Consumer Federation of America  
September 1973 Washington DC

### Related BITS & PIECES

Associated Press reports that \$77.2-billion, or two-thirds of the \$116.2-billion spent by Americans for farm-grown food last year went to middlemen. In contrast, farmers got \$39-billion with farm-grown food accounting for about 92% of the total eating cost . . . . . In an article headlined, "Many Economists Think Government Gives Up On Fighting Inflation" last month, the Wall Street Journal quotes Karl Brunner of the U. of Rochester: "I'm looking for an average inflation rate of around 5% a year for the next 10 years. It will be higher in some years and lower in others, but that's the trend." . . . .

## EPTF PUSHES FUELS CORPORATION

A government fuels corporation, according to CFA Energy Policy Task Force Chairman Lee White, may be the public's most effective weapon in dealing with the energy crisis. Legislation setting up a TVA-type corporation will probably be considered by Congress sometime this year.

The idea isn't new. White's been refining it since the Johnson Administration when he was chairman of the Federal Power Commission and defenseless, in the absence of public data, in measuring the validity of industry data, claims and projections.

But now the Federal Trade Commission has charged that eight major oil companies have conspired against consumers to create an energy shortage and White's idea no longer seems destined to be a figment of his imagination.

White wants legislation giving a corporation authority to get into the oil business, actually finding and drilling for oil and gas with the private companies. As with TVA and the utilities, a fuels corporation would provide the experience and information for evaluation of the private companies' efficiency and profits.

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo) went unrecognized at an August 1 meeting of food industry people and Butz. She's still seething over the arrogance Butz displays toward consumers. In reference to boycott leaders, she says Butz used the phrase, "crawling on their knees"--a condition he'd either try to extract or that he anticipates as a result of government policies. That's the interpretation of Schroeder's Administrative Assistant. . . . . Meanwhile, the boycott leaders in the form of National Consumer Congress, have announced a September 12 demonstration at Butz offices, the Department of Agriculture. Participation from around the country is anticipated. NCC claims 500 coordinators who are in touch with 500,000 consumers.



## Three ways to fight rising prices

This long-range legislative action is recommended by CFA lobbyist and information director Judy Jackson.

1. Support S. 1167, the Industrial Reorganization bill by Sen. Philip Hart (D-Mich). Hearings have been held. The bill would create new enforcement mechanisms designed to responsibly restructure industries dominated by oligopoly or monopoly power. The Senator's proposal would require that a new independent agency, known as the Industrial Reorganization Commission, study the structure of these industries: chemicals and drugs, electrical machinery and equipment, electronic computing and communication equipment, energy, iron and steel, motor vehicles, and nonferrous metals. Write Hart. Suggest the food industry be included in his list of industry targets.

2. Support H. R. 4531, the Family Farm Antitrust Act of 1973, a measure amending the Clayton Act to prohibit corporations whose nonfarming business assets exceed \$3-million from engaging in farming. This bill would put an end to agribusinesses and conglomerate control of farming. It would restore competition to the agricultural industry and provide for continued existence of the family farm. The House Judiciary Committee held hearings last spring but plans no further action now. Write Chairman Peter Rodino (D-NJ) insisting that Judiciary report out a bill.

3. Support S. 782, H. R. 9203, the Anti-trust Procedures & Penalties Act. This proposal passed the Senate July 18 and has been referred to House Judiciary Committee which plans mid-September hearings. The legislation would reform consent decree procedures and increase penalties for violation of the Sherman Act. The bill would transform consent decree procedures which are presently a series of private, informal negotiations between antitrust lawyers and attorneys for the corporate defendant into a procedure exposed to full light of public awareness and judicial scrutiny. It would end such practices as those prevalent in the 1969 smog case where the consent decree contained no affirmative provision to undo its past damage by retrofitting anti-emission exhaust devices on cars in the California market, and the more recent decree in which ITT was allowed to keep Hartford Insurance Company and was not forced to disgorge the profits made between acquisition of six companies (including Canteen and

Grinell Corp) and the required divestiture of these companies. Chairman Rodino should be urged to speed consideration of S. 782.

## Gas-guzzlers to confess

If the Environmental Protection Agency prevails, consumers will soon be armed with gas mileage figures on new cars. EPA has already revealed data showing that consumers for their 1973 models are buying gas at the rate of anywhere from 7.5 to 23.8 mpg. That covers today's wide-ranging engine sizes. Saving fuel supplies and money and encouraging production of smaller, more economical cars are EPA aims.

## Nixon & Health.

 (From Page 3)

Hearings are set this month. Any Senate-House compromise will undoubtedly displease the President because he opposes programs Congress insists be continued.

The groundwork for this battle was laid in the President's budget released last winter. In it he called for termination or phasing out of the community mental health centers, the 26-year-old Hill-Burton Hospital construction program, regional medical programs and bio-medical research training grants. He also said elderly patients should pick up more of the Medicare tab by paying the actual cost of the first day of room and board and 10% daily for all succeeding days in the hospital. Under Medicare, the sick now pay the first day of hospitalization and nothing further until 61-90 days for which they pay 25% of the cost.

- Last year the President impounded \$1.1-billion in health funds. That includes cuts of \$60-million in his own war against cancer program and additional amounts earmarked for heart, mental health, manpower training, family planning, alcoholism and hospital construction programs.

- In the President's August Watergate address, he also failed to mention that just two weeks before he vetoed a \$185-million emergency medical service bill aimed at training doctors, nurses and paramedics in emergency medicine, improved communications between hospitals and ambulances and better equipped emergency rooms and vehicles--another concept formerly nurtured by President Nixon. He vetoed the bill, he said, because Congress also included language requiring the Administration to continue operating the eight Public Health Service Hospitals he prefers to shut down.



# NIXON & HEALTH

"Legislation vital to our health and well-being sits unattended on the congressional calendar."

"If you share my belief in the goals--if you want the mandate you gave this administration to be carried out--then I ask for your help to ensure that those who would exploit Watergate in order to keep us from doing what we were elected to do will not succeed."

The same day the President was imploring the public to put Watergate aside, charging that Congress isn't enacting essential health legislation, a U.S. District Court rejected as unconstitutional the President's pocket veto of a health measure approved by Congress three years ago.

At issue was Sen. Edward Kennedy's 1970 Family Practice of Medicine Act authorizing a 3-year program of hospital and medical school grants for training general practitioners. It had passed the Senate 61-1 and the House 346-2. Even so, the President pocket vetoed the bill while Congress recessed for a 10-day Christmas holiday. The Constitution permits pocket vetoes during "adjournment" not "recess." Personally arguing the case against Nixon, Kennedy went to court on August 9, 1972. Despite the veto, Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the Act last year. It was ignored by President Nixon.

The record shows that the President's real concern--unfortunately misrepresented in his recent nationwide address excerpted above--is rather that Congress does not necessarily rubber-stamp Administration programs and spending policies.

It is not readily apparent that the Administration even has a health strategy. The President, for example, can't seem to make up his mind what to propose as a health security plan. Regular promises are made that the Administration's blueprint for a new health delivery system--or at least a streamlining proposal--is forthcoming. Last year's plan has been scuttled. As recently as July HEW Secretary Casper Weinberger was still talking about a variety of ways to improve the nation's health care system. He leaned toward a combination of employer-mandated coverage plus federally-financed catastrophic protection or a national plan modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

Eighteen months ago the President saw Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)--pre-paid group practice plans--as "a central feature of my national health strategy." In championing HMOs, Administration spokesmen predicted 90% of all Americans could be treated in a HMO by 1980. The AMA view of HMOs seems to prevail this year, however. In the same breath Secretary Weinberger brands HMOs worthy of an "experiment," he claims the Administration's "attachment" to them "has not changed, has not weakened." Yet, the President's current budget request for HMOs rests at \$60-million.

While the Administration blows hot and cold, Congress has not let HMOs go "unattended." The outlook for strong HMO legislation is at best questionable, a condition due in part to the White House flip-flop.

The Senate's \$805-million HMO development program is in sharp contrast to a \$240-million bill coming out of House Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee. A subcommittee bill has reportedly been amended by the full committee. It eliminates certain elements of the bill--in addition to dollar cuts--including construction loan guarantees, feasibility study grants, initial operating loans and guarantees, demonstration grants for indigent enrollment, etc. As summed up by the Cooperative League of the USA: "The amended version eliminated features reported to be 'objectionable' to the Administration and to the AMA. What remains may well be equally objectionable to the Senate." "What remains" must still be voted by the full House.

In other actions:

- The President has vetoed three Labor-HEW appropriations in the last two years. Another veto is almost certain as soon as the Senate acts on a House appropriations measure which already exceeds the White House request by \$1.25 billion. Senate

(Continued on Page 2)



# How to cut Rx costs. . .

Doctors prescribe drugs by brand or generic name. A brand name, registered by one manufacturer, cannot be used by another company. Consequently, other manufacturers can have their own brand names for the same drug. Achromycin V,



by Lederle Labs, and Tetracycline HCl, the drug's official or generic name. Both brands meet U.S. Food & Drug Adminis-

tration standards, are therapeutically effective and chemically equivalent. They are known as generic equivalents.

Most state laws prohibit pharmacists from using a generic equivalent when a doctor prescribes a brand name. If substitution were permitted, pharmacists in many instances could select a drug that is less expensive than the brand name drug since the brand name has a higher price than many of its generic equivalents. According to the Department of Health, Education & Welfare, substitution could have saved consumers \$41-million in 1966 alone.

CFA recommends repeal of state laws prohibiting substitution so that pharmacists can select the drug lowest in cost to the consumer. Although doctors can always prescribe drugs generically and let the pharmacist select the particular drug from any of the manufacturers he carries, as long as anti-substitution laws are in effect, CFA recommends that consumers ask for generic prescriptions and request the lowest cost drug from the pharmacist.

(Some drugs are under long-term patents of the manufacturers that first discover them. Brand name drugs such as Valium and Librium, for example, are made by only one company until a 17-year patent expires. During the patent period, therefore, there are no generic equivalents available.)

\* \* \*

The cost of prescription drugs can also be reduced by requiring price posting of commonly prescribed drugs and by removing



restrictions on price advertising. Greater accessibility to prices should therefore dramatically increase competitiveness among pharmacies.

A 1973 study by Rep. Benjamin S.

Rosenthal (D-NY) shows that prices are lower in areas where advertising is permitted. Lower drug prices are desired by all consumers. They are especially important to senior citizens on long term maintenance and to the many consumers living on fixed incomes.

CFA's report, Prescription Drug Pricing (1972, 17 pp. \$1) states: "We are distressed by studies documenting price variations up to 1200% for prescriptions of the same drug in the same area. We believe this is due to a host of restrictions and prohibitions placed upon free competition in advertising and sale of prescription drugs by registered pharmacists: Including prohibitions against advertising of drug prices . . . and against posting of drug prices in stores . . ."

Months after CFA's report calling for repeal of drug price disclosure bans, consumer legislation in this area was passed by Connecticut, Nevada, Texas, Minnesota and New York. Many states, however, still have total prohibitions on price advertising and price posting.

Price advertising has the support of consumer groups, state labor unions, the Department of Justice, senior citizens organizations and President Nixon's Office of Consumer Affairs.

CFA recommends repeal of state laws prohibiting price advertising and also recommends that pharmacies be required to post prices of commonly prescribed drugs.

\* \* \*

To better control quality of drugs, prescription labels should include the date beyond which the drug loses its effectiveness. Similar to perishable foods, the potency of some drugs decreases after storage.



People frequently keep unused prescriptions, and when the same illness reappears months later, the remaining portion may be used. A date on the label

will tell the consumer when the drug should no longer be used.

CFA recommends requiring that the date disclosing when a drug no longer be used be included on prescription labels.

## . . .without cutting quality

FOR REPRINT & CIRCULATION BY CFA MEMBERS



# Looking For The Truth In Health Insurance Advertising

**Q** What should I look for in advertisements offering hospital insurance?

**A** Look for (1) who can renew or cancel a policy, (2) what the daily benefits payable are, (3) what expenses are not covered, (4) will pre-existing conditions be covered, (5) what are the exclusions and how can the rates be raised at a later date, (7) if the company is licensed to do business in your state (check with your state insurance commissioner).

**Q** Why is the pre-existing disease provision so important?

**A** Most hospital policies do not immediately cover illnesses or conditions that began before the policy was issued. Sometimes the waiting period is TWO YEARS, and that might be stated to you as a "benefit," i. e., "all illnesses covered after two years." If the company requires no physical exam at time of application for the insurance, they may claim any illness was "pre-existing."

**Q** What does it mean when an advertisement states, "This policy will pay up to \$20,000 if you are hospitalized?"

**A** Don't be misled by attention getters. This one really means at the rate of perhaps \$200 per week in the hospital you can collect the maximum of \$20,000, but you have to be in the hospital for almost two years. Think about it. How many people do you know who have been hospitalized that long. Remember, the average hospital stay is 7 or 8 days; for persons over 65, 14.2 days.

**Q** Can premiums be increased on hospital insurance policies?

**A** Yes, unless you have a non-cancellable policy. Premiums on guaranteed renewable contracts can be raised as long as the company raises the premium on the entire series.

**Q** Do all hospitalization policies pay benefits from the first day you are hospitalized?

**A** No. Many begin payment on the fifth, sixth or seventh day for illness. Remember -- the average hospital stay is 7 or 8 days. Injury due to accident is often covered from the first day. But look back and count the number of times you have been hospitalized as a result of an accident as compared to illness. Accidents requiring hospitalization are rare.

**Q** Is complete accuracy on your application for insurance important?

**A** Yes. You may not have a valid claim unless the answers are true and correct.

**Q** What does an ad mean when it says this policy pays you "at home"?

**A** This is a "gimmick." Payment is made to the patient "at home" equal to the number of days he spent in the hospital.

**Q** Can a company really "guarantee" you won't be canceled?

**A** No. The annual renewal may be denied at the company's discretion.

**Q** \$500 a month, free and clear, to do with as you wish" sounds like a lot of money. Is it?

**A** It would be paid to you at a DAILY rate (in this case about \$16) for the number of days you are hospitalized only--much less than your daily hospital costs.

BY CFA MEMBERS



Prepared by the Kansas City Consumers Association and circulated to the membership. Under a May 1 ruling by the state insurance commissioner, Kansas is requiring more honesty in health insurance ads. Regulation is aimed at advertising techniques creating a false sense of urgency, exaggerated statements, unfair use of comments by well-known personalities, and misuse of certain misleading references.



# What Next? And Now, There's a Shortage of Toilets; A Strike and Mounting Demand Are Factors

New York Times  
August 24, 1973

## Aghast at the Market

## Cheer for the Consumer

By TOM GOLDSTEIN

By Nixon Waterman

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL  
In Libertyville, Ill., a new wing to a hospital probably won't open on time. In Dayton, Ohio, two public-housing projects went unoccupied for six weeks this spring. In Phoenix, a young couple had to stay in a motel for two weeks because the home they ordered wasn't ready. And in northern New Jersey, builders are threatening to march on Washington.

By RONALD G. SHAFER

This newspaper, in a front page story, recently headlined an alarming forecast: "RISING FOOD PRICES SEEN." If prices rise much more, newspapers someday may report and analyze daily food prices as this newspaper already analyzes stock market prices in its "Apreast of the Market" column.

I'm only a consumer, and it really doesn't matter  
If you crowd me in the street cars till I couldn't well be flatter,  
I'm only a consumer, and the strikers may go striking,  
For it's mine to end my living if it isn't to my liking.  
I am a sort of parasite without a special mission  
Except to pay the damages—mine is a queer position:  
The Fates unite to squeeze me till I couldn't well be flatter,  
For I'm only a consumer, and it really doesn't matter.  
The baker tilts the price of bread upon the vaguest rumor  
Of damage to the wheat crop, but I'm only a consumer,  
So it really doesn't matter, for there's no law that compels me  
To pay the added charges on the loaf of bread he sells me.  
The iceman leaves a smaller piece when days are growing hotter,  
But I'm only a consumer, and I do not need iced water:  
My business is to pay the bills and keep in a good humor,  
And it really doesn't matter, for I'm only a consumer.

The problem? There aren't enough toilets to go around.  
Already battered by temporary shortages of cement, lumber and gypsum this year, beleaguered builders now face a toilet crisis that shows no signs of letting up.

Food prices rose sharply in heavy buying on the nation's supermarkets yesterday. The A&P Food Averages closed up 10 cents, led by meats, eggs and jumbo martini olives. Among other key indicators, the average price of a can of corn jumped 13 cents on the Safeway Exchange.

"It will be well into next year before there is any great relief," says Robert Niehaus, group vice president of Wallace-Murray Corporation, parent company of Eljer Plumbingware, a toilet producer.

Supermarket observers attributed the surge of buying to anticipation of still higher prices later. "It's the rising expectations syndrome," observed Melvin Bagger, stockboy at the Put n' Call Delicatessen in Brooklyn. "Shoppers expect more foods to become scarce, so they're buying now as a hedge against starvation."

The milkman waters milk for me; there's garlic in my butter,  
But I'm only a consumer, and it does no good to mutter;  
I know that coal is going up and beef is getting higher,  
But I'm only a consumer, and I have no need of fire;  
While beefsteak is a luxury that wealth alone is needing,  
I'm only a consumer, and what need have I for feeding?  
My business is to pay the bills and keep in a good humor,  
And it really doesn't matter, since I'm only a consumer.

B. S. Durant, an executive vice president of American Standard Inc., the industry leader, thinks the shortage of waterclosets (the extension used by manufacturers) may last for years.

Gainers greatly outnumbered losers in yesterday's Wall Street Journal. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 10 cents to 1,000.00 on August 13, 1973. The Consumer Reports magazine, one magazine that the pepperoni on many of the pizzas were frozen fruit slices.

The grocer sells me addled eggs; the tailor sells me shoddy,  
I'm only a consumer, and I am not anybody.  
The cobbler pegs me paper soles, the dairyman short-weights me,  
I'm only a consumer, and most everybody hates me.  
There's turnip in my pumpkin pie and ashes in my pepper,  
The world's my lazaretto, and I'm nothing but a leper;  
So lay me in my lonely grave and tread the turf down flatter,  
I'm only a consumer, and it really doesn't matter.

A third manufacturer adds: "Builders and contractors are coming to us with their eyes and asking for waterclosets to help them."

# Instead of Soybean Jeans

By Judith Martin

Washington Post  
August 19, 1973

If none of those other shortages gets you where it hurts (if you don't drive a car, eat meat or run a washing machine, anyway) don't bother talking to the rest of us about being independent of material things and raising what you need for a good, simple life, from the land.

We have one just for you. Your own special little scare.

There's a blue jean shortage. Blue jeans are scarce now, getting more expensive all the time, and may possibly soon be hard to find at any price. How do you like them apples?

This is part of a general cotton and wool shortage, which has to do, as do all the good things in life these days, with bad crops, the rise of grain prices and the export situation. Cotton has been flooded out in many places, sheepherders have gotten fed up and gone out of business, and our old friends from World War II, the West Germans and the Japanese, have bought everything in sight.

## Watergate lessons . . .

The U. of Chicago's new course, the "Constitutional Aspects of Watergate," is to "help students apply their knowledge toward seeking practical solutions to public policy questions." So says Professor Philip B. Kurland according to UPI.

## . . . & tape doctoring

In a special 59-minute program, National Public Radio on August 26 presented "The Tapes: Can You Believe What You Hear?" produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. The program treated such issues: Can original tape recordings be altered to falsify conversations? Can doctored tapes be detected?



## Industry bypassed for regulatory jobs

Consumerists Elizabeth Hanford and David Pittle have won the much-coveted seats on the Federal Trade and Consumer Product Safety Commissions breaking an Administration habit of naming only industry people to regulatory agencies.

Behind-the-scenes Senate Commerce Committee involvement in the appointments by President Nixon virtually assures Senate confirmation of both White House choices.

### Hanford

Ms. Hanford-- successor to Mary Gardiner Jones-- will serve 7 years. She has been Virginia Knauer's deputy since 1971. Earlier she was an associate director of legislative affairs in that office. Before that she was a ranking member of Betty Furness' staff in the LBJ era. Ms. Hanford is an attorney (Harvard '65) and at 37 holds an impressive array of citations for outstanding government service.

### Pittle

In contrast to the hotly-contested FTC slot which had consumer leaders dividing support among several candidates (including Ms. Hanford), David Pittle slipped into the new safety commission job almost unnoticed. A Ph.D. engineer, Pittle, 36, has taught at Carnegie-Mellon U. in Pittsburgh since 1969. Previously he taught at the U. of Wisconsin. Currently he is working under a \$343-thousand grant from the National Science Foundation to analyze consumer attitudes towards safety and develop a safety-oriented high school level consumer education curriculum. A founder and present president of the activist Alliance for Consumer Protection in Pittsburgh (a CFA affiliate), Pittle will serve on the safety agency five years. Active in national consumer groups, Pittle serves on the product safety committees of the American National Standards Institute and the American Society for Testing and Materials.

See Pages 4 and 5 for suggested materials on Rx drug costs and health insurance advertising-- suitable for reprinting and circulating by CFA member organizations.

## Voorhis urges interest rate control to break inflationary chain

While breaking up the monopolies, boycotting (voluntary and otherwise), changing eating and buying habits, and other solutions to price inflation are debated, former California Congressman Jerry Voorhis is urging an end to inflationary interest rates, a partial solution neither the White House nor Congress seems willing to embrace.

Voorhis offers the following perspective and commentary on the matter:

In December, 1965, the Federal Reserve Board, by a vote of 4-3, raised its rediscount interest rate by 12 1/2%. This, it was alleged, was a move to "curb inflation."

This column (The Human Side of the Market Place, Cooperative News Service) predicted at the time, instead of curbing inflation of prices, the increasing interest rates, all across the country, would add to the inflation and that within a year most prices would be up by 10%.

As a matter of record prices rose much more than that. The higher interest rates, MUST increase the cost of doing business, the cost of every item produced or distributed by any business that operates on borrowed money-- as most of them do. It would seem that any person with just plain intelligence could see that.

But not the financial community. For obvious reasons.

High interest is their way of adding to their profits.

Inflation went from 1.1% in 1965 to 6.2% in 1970. During that same period interest on government

guaranteed loans climbed from 5 1/4% to 8 1/2%.

Today the situation is far more serious. The Federal Reserve has raised its discount rate to 6 1/2%, housing loans are at 10% or more. And inflation of prices is the worst in American history.

It is too bad that Mr. Nixon refuses to use authority given him by Congress to put controls on interest rates. But his close alliance with the biggest of financial interests naturally eliminates any such hope.

It is also too bad that supposedly wise experts in the field of money matters cannot see what every American citizen-- above all every farmer and every businessman-- can see "with his arm."

Namely, that the higher interest rates become, the greater will be the cost of production, distribution and exchange of practically all goods and services.

And therefore the more virulent will be price inflation.

High interest rates are by no means the only cause of price inflation. Monopoly pricing, and exorbitant military and space expenditures are equally basic causes in eroding the buying power of the dollar.

But high interest rates are the most inexcusable cause of inflation. For there is not one single economic reason or excuse for them.

Furthermore they are morally wrong.

### Food-Terminal Sites Listed by U.S. Agency

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter  
According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are food terminals in 23 major cities around the country and in 50 or so smaller towns.

Aside from Pittsburgh and Cleveland, the major cities are Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Mo., Los Angeles, Louisville, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, Ore., St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

A listing of the 50 or so smaller terminals may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Consumer and Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, 12th Street and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

(Editor's Comment-- This August 28 clip accompanied a lengthy report about consumers finding up to 50% savings by shopping at food terminals, the source of supermarket supplies. The terminals are sometimes hard to find. This report suggests checking the Yellow Pages under "fruits and vegetables, wholesale," or under "food brokers." A cluster of brokers on the same street or in a small area may help pin-point the terminal.)



# "Women's Insurance Bill of Rights"


1. The right to equal access to all types of insurance.
2. The right to premiums that fairly reflect risks and not prejudice.
3. The right to protection against arbitrary classification based on sex, and against sex classification when other bases which might be appropriate have not been utilized or even explored.
4. The right to equal employment opportunities in the insurance industry and its regulatory agencies, and to a fair share of scholarships and financial assistance for the study of insurance.
5. The right to non-sexist and non-judgmental treatment by agents, brokers, claims representatives and all others who deal directly with policyholders.
6. The right to representation on the decision-making bodies of commercial insurance companies, Blue Cross plans and other non-profit insurers.
7. The right to buy insurance or qualify for coverage regardless of marital status.
8. The right to adequate health insurance coverage for all needs, including comprehensive maternity benefits for all conditions of pregnancy regardless of age or marital status.
9. The right to disability insurance which fairly measures the economic value of child care and homemaking.
10. The right to privacy in the claims process.

## LEGISLATION OVERDUE

- Creation of an independent consumer protection agency with full powers of intervention in all formal and informal agency proceedings to be the consumers' advocate in federal decision-making. House Government Operations hearings will be held in September; the Senate Government Operations Committee could report a bill for full Senate action almost any time. CPA legislation is on the Senate's priority list. Varying forms have passed one or the other house in past years.
- No-fault auto insurance bills must still be reported out of Senate and House committees. No-fault suffered a narrow Senate defeat last year.
- Warranty standards legislation is in shape for a Senate vote; the House committee has yet to report a clean bill for full House action.



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