

Washington, D.C.

September, 1974

## Shapiro to head new Detroit consumer office

Esther Shapiro, CFA president, has been named director of the Department of Consumer Affairs for the city of Detroit. Mayor Coleman Young selected Mrs. Shapiro to be the first head of this newly-formed city agency. Mrs. Shapiro has resigned her duties at CFA in order to concentrate her energies on her new post.



Shapiro

The Detroit Department of Consumer Affairs which was first proposed by Mrs. Shapiro and others eight years ago will be patterned after successful consumer affairs offices in other large U.S. cities. It will have broad powers, including the ability to revoke licenses, issue subpoenas, take testimony, promulgate rules and enforce laws dealing with consumers.

Mrs. Shapiro has been working in the area of consumer affairs for the past eight years. Prior to her new appointment, she was consumer specialist for the Michigan Credit Union League and head of the Consumer Alliance of Michigan. She was elected to the presidency of Consumer Federation of America last January.

Carol Tucker Foreman, CFA's executive director notes, "Esther has a profound commitment to the cause. Because she truly believes in the rights of consumers, her words and actions are an inspiration to all of us who have had the privilege of working with her. The city of Detroit is indeed fortunate to have acquired her vast experience and deep commitment."

CFA's Board of Directors has elected George Myers to serve as president until new elections are held in January. Mr. Myers, head of public relations department of the Credit Union National Association's Washington office was one of the original incorporators of CFA. He has stated he will not seek the presidency in January.

## Last chance for consumer advocacy

The Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) came so close to realization during the third Senate vote to limit debate that an unusual fourth cloture vote has been granted by Senate leadership. This last and vital confrontation is scheduled for September 18.

The third vote narrowly failed on August 20. Fifty-nine Senators voted for cloture and thirty-five against. This represents a gain of five votes from the previous cloture attempts on July 30.

**At this time, only three more yes votes are needed, assuming all Senators are present for the final cloture vote. If cloture wins, final passage of the most important consumer protection legislation of the decade is assured.**

The latest defeat can be partially attributed to the inexcusable absence of five proponents of the legislation. They are Senators Chase (R-NJ), Cook (D-Ky), Gravel (D-Alaska), McGee (D-Wyo) and McGovern (D-SD).

Prior to the third cloture vote the bill's sponsors and representatives of the opposition worked out a series of amendments designed to weaken the agency's powers, thus softening the opposition. These changes include:

(1) An amendment designed to protect agricultural interests. "Nothing in this act shall be construed and no authority in this act shall authorize the Administrator to intervene in any United States Department of Agriculture proceeding without considering the consumer's interest in an adequate supply of food and without considering the interest of farmers in maintaining an adequate level of income and production."

(2) A requirement, as in the House bill, that when the new agency sends general questionnaires and interrogatories to business, it channel them through existing regulatory agencies instead of sending them out directly, thus allowing the other agencies to impose a curb on questions.

(3) A narrowing of the Senate bill's exemption for labor activities. The substitute would follow

the House version H.R. 13163.

(4) Deletion of Senate provisions permitting the President to remove the new agency's head for only serious cause, allowing the new agency to use subpoena powers in informal agency proceedings before regulatory units, and providing for the new agency to submit its budget requests directly to Congress at the same time it submits them to the Office of Management and Budget.

CFA has accepted these amendments as the best possible compromise at this time. The weakening amendments caused five Senators formerly opposed to cloture to switch their votes. They were: Dole (R-Kans), Beall (R-Md), Young (R-N Dak), Cannon (D-Nev) and Fong (R-Hawaii). These Senators should be congratulated for their switching.

Absentee Senators should be blasted for missing the critical third cloture vote. All Senators supporting cloture should be encouraged not to miss the decisive and final vote on September 18.

**In addition, three more votes are needed to obtain cloture. The following Senators are considered most likely to switch their votes on September 18th, provided they receive outside support for this action: Aiken [R-Vt], Bible [D-Nev], Baker [R-Tenn], Dominick [R-Colo] and Stevens [R-Alaska]. Please encourage your members to phone, write, wire or visit these critical Senators, and express their enthusiastic support for S. 707.**

CFA's executive director, Carol Tucker Foreman notes that the bill remains satisfactory to consumers, but, "any further compromises will give consumers the law of diminishing returns. If supporters are forced to give away any more of the Agency's powers, the results will be a sham, a consumer protection agency in name only, without sufficient powers to be effective. If this happens, we would rather remove the bill from consideration by this session of Congress and wait until next year."

## Douglas Center gets \$48,500 FEO grant

The Paul Douglas Consumer Research Center of the Consumer Federation of America has received a \$48,500 contract from the Federal Energy Administration to design a model consumer affairs system for the FEA State Offices of Petroleum Allocation (SOPA's).

The Paul Douglas Research Center staff will operate in conjunction with the law firm of Boasberg, Hewes, Klores and Kass. The team will visit 20 SOPA's and grassroots organizations throughout the country to analyze the problems which consumers have experienced in fuel allocations, fuel payments, prices and supplies.

Methods by which SOPA's and other state agencies deal with these problems will be studied and a series of model programs for handling consumer problems will be devised.

The Douglas Center will prepare a handbook for the state offices, suggesting effective methods for dealing with consumer hardships. Extensive contact will be made with the SOPA's, Attorneys General, consumer groups and regional FEA offices to analyze complaints and identify unique programs.

The Paul Douglas Center was uniquely qualified to undertake this project. It recently published *Coping with the Energy Crisis: A Practical Guide for Community Action Agencies, Consumer Groups and Voluntary Organizations on What They Can Do*. The handbook was made possible through a grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity. The Douglas Center intends to update this handbook to make it current for the coming winter heating season.

Announcing

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# New administration has mixed consumer record

President Gerald Ford appears to have a split personality on consumer issues according to his past voting record compiled by Consumer Federation of America.

As a Representative from the fifth district of Michigan, Mr. Ford had an exact 50% pro-consumer and anti-consumer vote tally over the past three sessions of Congress. Mr. Ford's record largely reflects the views of his mid-western constituency. Now that he is President of all the people, consumers are confident that he will reflect their views and consider their needs.

In 1971, during the first session of the 92nd Congress, Mr. Ford voted for the consumer by favoring the creation of a Consumer Protection Agency and opposing moves to limit CPA's intervention in agency and court proceedings to an advisory status. He did vote to limit the Agency's authority to represent consumers before other Federal departments and adjudicatory proceedings and to conduct oversight of informal agency proceedings.

Mr. Ford supported a portion of the Economic Opportunity Act that provided for legal assistance to low-income consumers. He opposed sections of the bill dealing with comprehensive child development programs.

In the same session, Mr. Ford's vote served to escalate interest rates by supporting the Treasury Department's proposal to market long-term government bonds without regard to the 4¼ per cent ceiling on interest rates. He also voted against the creation of a Select House Committee to investigate all U.S. energy resources. This, of course, was three years before the "Energy Crisis."

## Ford has supported ACA

In 1972, during the second session of the 92nd Congress, Mr. Ford voted against consumers by favoring the payment of losses to growers, manufacturers, packers and distributors resulting from the use of cyclamates in foods following a ban by the Food and Drug Administration. He sided with consumers by voting to kill a bill which would increase federal contributions for state meat and poultry inspection without guaranteeing effective administration of state inspection on behalf of consumers.

In the most recent session of Congress, before he was appointed Vice President, Mr. Ford cast three pro-consumer votes, and two anti-consumer ones. He supported NOW accounts, an innovative banking practice to allow banks to give interest on checking accounts; mandatory fuel allocations and amendments to the Alaska Pipeline Bill extending enforcement powers of the Federal Trade Commission.

He opposed unqualified Presidential economic controls and voted to sustain the President's veto of the minimum wage bill.

At a time when economic and consumer problems are foremost in the minds of all Americans, we are confident that Mr. Ford will make them a priority issue in his new Administration.

It is especially vital that he lend his full support to the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (new name for the Consumer Protection Agency) now being considered on the Senate floor. Earlier this year, in a speech in Chicago, Mr. Ford expressed his support of the House passed legislation. He stated that he would have voted for the House version of the bill if he had been a member of Congress.

"Mr. Ford's vigorous support of the Agency for Consumer Advocacy would assure the American people that he is making a complete break with the industry-dominated policies of the Nixon Ad-

ministration," commented Carol Tucker Foreman, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America.

"In the past few weeks, America has been experiencing a revitalization of the foundation upon which our Constitution is based. Perhaps the most important aspect of that foundation is the guarantee that every American will have a voice in the government. This is the philosophy of the ACA bill; it would give consumers a voice within the decision-making processes of the Federal government."

## Rocky weak on consumerism

The new Vice Presidential nominee is not much of a consumer advocate either. Consumer issues were a low priority item during the administration of Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Consumer leaders in New York charge the former governor with a "total lack of concern with the problems of consumers in his state."

One of Governor Rockefeller's first acts in 1965 was to abolish the office of Consumer Council to the Governor and fire its director Dr. Persia Campbell. Dr. Campbell had been appointed to this newly created cabinet post by Governor Averill Harriman in 1954.

Realizing the growing concern with consumer fraud and deception, Governor Rockefeller, after a 14 year neglect, proposed an Office of Consumer Protection for New York State during his 1970 gubernatorial campaign. The office was con-

## Richardson resigns in protest

Dr. Lee Richardson, director of the Office of Consumer Affairs of the Federal Energy Administration, resigned in protest last month, charging that the FEA ignored the problems of consumers in adopting energy related policies.

Dr. Richardson, a former director of the Consumer Federation of America, further charged that the FEA's Consumer Advisory Committee, headed by Lee C. White, director of CFA's Energy Policy Task Force, was denied access to both FEA administrators and decision making processes.

According to Dr. Richardson, this total denial of consumer input put "FEA on a direct collision course with the best interest of consumers." As examples, he cited the FEA's subsidizing of the oil industry, its misdirection in limiting competition and its treatment of consumer energy policy as a welfare problem.

He also blasted the FEA for its simpleminded approach to consumer education and its total lack of concern about the environment, the safety of

sequently created as an impotent public relations gimmick with no power and insufficient funding. Betty Furness, its first director, resigned in disgust.

The governor failed to name a replacement for a full year, finally designating Peter Pryor, who has been "ineffectual at best," according to Eileen Hoats, a vice president of Consumer Federation of America and executive director of the New York Consumer Assembly.

Ms. Hoats cites three other major examples of the former governor's failure to consider consumer's health, safety and economic well-being. In 1973 he vetoed legislation to enact unit pricing, certify auto repair shops and ban hazardous toys. He also granted the New York Telephone Company a tax exemption on all its property holdings and pressured the New York legislature to kill class action legislation.

"Governor Rockefeller had tremendous power within the New York State legislature," Ms. Hoats commented. "However, he rarely used that power to work for consumers."

Governor Rockefeller's pro-consumer achievements included his sponsorship of the state's no fault insurance bill and his support of several pieces of innovative credit legislation.

With his appointment as vice-president, CFA is hopeful that Governor Rockefeller will use his vast experience to work with consumer groups toward equitable solutions to the ever mounting problems of American consumers.

nuclear power and the development of alternate sources of energy.

Lee White commented, "The resignation of Dr. Richardson symbolizes in the most dramatic fashion possible how little concern and attention have been given to the plight of consumers by the Administration in its handling of the problems associated with the energy crisis.

"Consumers can only hope that Dr. Richardson's resignation will serve as a jolt to the FEA and that there will be not only a greater willingness to hear the voice of consumers and consumer organizations, but also a willingness to adopt policies and programs which will protect the consumer. It is proper to have some concern about the viability of the petroleum industry, but that must be tempered by concern for citizens, especially at a time when petroleum profits continue their merry ride to heaven and prices at the gasoline pump and at fuel dealers are all all-time highs and beginning to impose hardships on people throughout the country."

## Hot off the presses

### Law and Taxation: A Guide for Conservation and Other Nonprofit Organizations

by Berlin, Roisman, & Kessler

This booklet is an essential aid to nonprofit organizations investigating the benefits and restrictions of various types of tax status.

If you plan on changing your tax status or are thinking about setting up a tax-exempt arm, we suggest that you get a copy. While it is not a substitute for a lawyer, it will inform you as to the options available.

The booklet can be ordered from: The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. The price is \$1.25.

### How to Challenge Your Local Electric Utility

by the Environmental Action Foundation

This is that great book that we spoke about in our past issue. It is both a comprehensive overview of the electric power industry and an action outline for you to begin a movement against rate increases. For the price, no one should be without it.

You can order it from us, CFA. The price is \$1.00.

### Who's Got the Power: A Resource Guide

This Guide was produced as a result of the Citizen's Energy Conference held in February, 1974. The Conference created a vast national network of resource people and citizen organizations actively studying energy issues and building citizen involvement and response.

The publication may be ordered from: Center for Science in the Public Interest, 1779 Church St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. The price is \$1.00.

### Break the Banks: A Shopper's Guide to Banking Services

by San Francisco Consumer Action

Banks are the key economic institutions of the nation. They own a piece of everything and are responsible to almost no one. This publication by SFCA is the first step at making the banks accountable to the consumer and the public.

The report is a solid account of the nature of the banking institutions and what a consumer should be looking for when shopping for services. A careful reading of it will give you a base to plan your own bank survey and begin to prepare the consumers of your community to shop carefully so that they can get the most for their money.

**Break the Banks** can be ordered from San Francisco Consumer Action, 312 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. The price is \$1.75.



# The ugly consequences of keeping beautiful

by Senator Thomas F. Eagleton

A college student is blinded for a year after she accidentally scratches the cornea of her eye with a mascara brush. Chemical analysis of the mascara shows that its preservative breaks down at an ideal temperature zone for the breeding of dangerous bacteria. No warning appears on the product that it could be harmful to eye tissue or that the product should be kept in a cool, dry place.

In Albuquerque, N.M., a two-year-old plays with an automobile-shaped glass container. Cologne inside the container spills out of the opening which is located under the "car." A portable heater nearby ignites the substance, and the child suffers burns so severe and deep that both his legs below the knees are amputated. No warning appears on the container that the product was highly flammable.

These are but two of the examples of cosmetic injury which have come to my attention in my work on the Cosmetic Safety Amendments which I introduced over a year ago.

In 1970, the National Commission on Product Safety estimated that some 60,000 cosmetic-related injuries occur every year. Regardless of the precise figure, it is clear from testimony presented at hearings on this subject conducted by the Senate Subcommittee on Health and from mail received by members of Congress that a substantial number of persons suffer injuries associated with cosmetic use.

We buy, use and place casually around our homes cosmetic items in the false belief that someone, the government or the manufacturer, has determined their safety. This simply is not true. The fact is that cosmetic

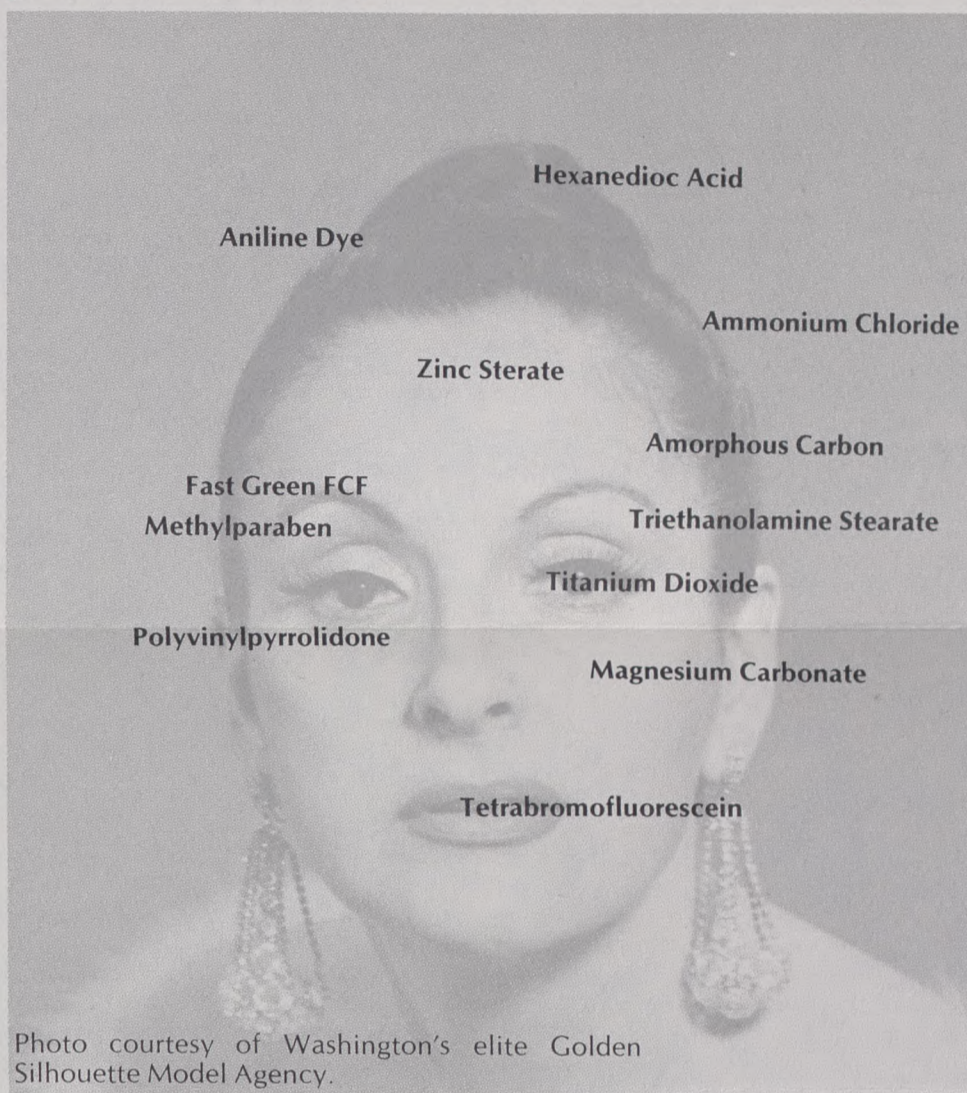


Photo courtesy of Washington's elite Golden Silhouette Model Agency.

products—items Americans of both sexes and of all ages use every day to cleanse, beautify, scent and chase the dream of physical perfection—can be put on store shelves without prior testing and without labels containing warnings regarding use or listing ingredients. Only drug products, preparations that claim to alter bodily

functions, must be tested for safety and efficacy. The broad category of consumer items called "cosmetics" need not be tested at all.

That they should be tested, and that consumers have a right to know the contents of the cosmetic products they buy are the main points of the Cosmetic Safety Amendments, (S. 863)

a bill which I authored and which is currently pending before the Senate Subcommittee on Health.

The bill requires that all manufacturers register with the Food and Drug Administration and submit statements of composition for each of their products. It also requires the manufacturers to send copies of all injury complaints they receive to the agency.

In addition, the bill requires ingredient labeling of all cosmetics, thereby providing consumers with information they need to know to avoid ingredients to which they have allergies and to compare products for the best buy. It also requires cautionary labeling where certain products have special risks of misuse. Perfumes, for example, might be labeled for flammability, while hormone creams might be labeled to caution against ingestion and excessive use.

Further, and most importantly, the bill requires that all manufacturers substantiate the safety of their products prior to production and sale. Safety substantiation would consist of a variety of animal and human testing, with procedures varying in accordance with the nature of the product and its intended use.

The number of grooming substances we rub, pour, sprinkle, spray and otherwise apply to ourselves under the assumption they are safe is staggering. The majority of these, when used properly in moderation, are safe. Other products are only a waste of our time and money. But still others contain poisonous or dangerous substances. As the law stands now, we have no way of knowing. What we do know is that keeping Americans beautiful can have some ugly consequences.

## Cosmetic glossary

**Hexanedioc Acid**—Used in hair color rinses. Lethal to rats in large oral doses.

**Aniline Dye**—Used in the manufacture of hair dyes. Serious poisoning from ingestion causes acute lack of oxygen in the blood, dizziness, headache, mental confusion and skin lesions.

**Ammonium Chloride**—Used in permanent wave solutions. If ingested can cause nausea, vomiting and acidosis. Lethal as an intramuscular dose in rats and guinea pigs.

**Titanium Dioxide**—Used to cover marks and dark circles. No known toxicity, when used externally. In high concentrations the dust may cause lung damage.

**Triethanolamine Stearate**—Used in mascara. May be irritating to the skin and mucous membranes.

**Amorphous Carbon**—Used in eyebrow pencil. Can cause cancer (found in coal miners), or more commonly eye irritations and skin rashes.

**Fast Green FCF**—Used in green colored eye shadow. On the provisional list of approved color additives, it produces malignant tumors at the site of injection when introduced under the skin of rats.

**Tetrabromofluorescein**—A bluish pink stain used in lipstick. Among lip problems reported recently to the FDA are burns, cracks, lacerations, excessive dryness, numbness, rash, and swollen gums as adverse reactions to lipstick products.

**Polyvinylpyrrolidone**—Used in liquid rouge. Ingestion may produce gas and fecal impaction damage to lungs and kidneys. Strong circumstantial evidence indicates foreign bodies in the lungs may be produced in susceptible individuals from concentrated exposure to PVP (also used in hair sprays). Modest intravenous doses in rats causes them to develop tumors.

**Zinc Sterate**—Used in face powders. Inhalation of powder may cause lung problems and produce death in infants from pneumonitis with lesions. No known toxicity on the skin.

**Methylparaben**—Used in eyeliner and liquid makeup. Nontoxic in small amounts but can cause allergic skin reactions.

**Magnesium Carbonate**—Used in liquid powders and dry rouge. Nontoxic to the intact skin but may cause irritation when applied to abraded skin.

From *A Consumers Dictionary of Cosmetic Ingredients*, by Ruth Winter, Crown Publishers, New York, 1974

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## State reports

### Arkansas

Thirty-nine candidates running in contested races for the state legislature who answered a questionnaire on consumer issues sent to them by Arkansas Consumer Research overwhelmingly supported a host of legislation and appropriations that would broaden consumers' rights and representation in Arkansas. A majority of candidates answered favorably to all 11 questions, which covered topics such as insurance, consumer representation, utility matters, product safety, and programs for the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office.

If the candidates' responses to the questionnaire were at all indicative of the mood of the Arkansas legislature, there is hope for progress in consumer legislation in the next session.

### Pennsylvania

Herbert Denenberg who did so much for consumers while head of the Pennsylvania Insurance Commission, has been appointed to the Public Utilities Commission as a Commissioner and as General Counsel by Governor Milton Shapp. Denenberg's appointment as Commissioner has to be confirmed by the Senate which plans to act on it after the Labor Day recess. But his appointment as General Counsel has hit quite a few snags.

A majority of Commissioners have petitioned the court to set aside the appointment on the grounds that he is not a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and that he has held the office of General Counsel up to derision and ridicule therefore, making it improper for him to then fill that position.

Denenberg had been admitted to the Bar but the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania reviewed the admission and then vacated it pending a hearing. If he is granted admission to the Bar, it will make that point moot, leaving the other to be litigated. The Court hearing is scheduled for September 9th.

### California

Governor Ronald Reagan recently vetoed the \$580,038 earmarked by the legislature for the expansion of the Department of Consumer Affairs' consumer services division. The additional money would have bought for the division a much-needed advertisement substantiation program, the capability to intervene on behalf of consumers in formal proceedings, a legislative counsel, an important ombudsman function, and a research and education program.

San Francisco Consumer Action sent a letter protesting the veto pointing out that the effect of the cuts would be to continue the role of the Consumer Affairs Department as a "hollow public relations agency unable to fulfill its legal mandate to the people."

SFCA had recommended funding changes in the Consumer Affairs Department in a recent study of the effectiveness of the department.

Accusing Drugists in California of overcharging consumers by \$60 million to \$150 million per year, San Francisco Consumer Action filed suit recently to overturn state laws that prohibit the advertising and discounting of prescription drug prices.

Filed on behalf of Consumer Action and seven other plaintiffs, the suit seeks to enjoin the California State Board of Pharmacy from enforcing sections of the state business and professions code that make drug price advertising and discounting a misdemeanor.

The court action stems partly from the release in June of SFCA's "A Shoppers' Guide to Pharmacies." The guide surveyed prescription drug prices at all San Francisco pharmacies and showed that prices for the same drug varied inexplicably and widely, sometimes by as much as 400 percent.

### Idaho

Idaho Consumer Affairs, Inc. took action in May to avert a rate increase requested by the Idaho Power Company. As in other instances, the consumers of Idaho were given little time to prepare their arguments and lacked sufficient funds to present the kind of case needed.

ICA was given permission, initially, to have the Public Broadcasting System's local station, KAID, cover the hearings live. After everyone had time to think about the implications of such a move, permission was withdrawn, leaving the proceedings to take place without the public watching or listening.

Idaho Power was given its requested rate increase, the consumers of Idaho not being able to gather the volumes of evidence and witnesses with their few dollars that the utilities can buy with their thousands.

### Virginia

The Virginia Board of Agriculture and Commerce has added a tough enforcement section to the Infant Formula Regulation which it passed last year. The law now makes it a misdemeanor to sell outdated formula with penalties of up to \$1,000 and/or a year in jail.

The Virginia Citizens Consumer Council has worked for nearly four years to have open dating on infant formula against some of the most powerful lobbies in the state.

The Virginia Citizens Consumer Council will be conducting the first state-wide training seminar for potential consumer leaders. The seminar will focus on governmental and legislative processes, conducting consumer education activities, developing volunteer consumer organization programs, and improving communication skills.

Funded by the General Services Administration, the training sessions will be conducted with the cooperation of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in consultation with the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs.

Seminar participants will be selected from community leaders who agree to conduct follow-up activities in their home towns. Some 50 individuals will be selected to attend the seminar, earning credit through VPI's Continuing Education Center. The Seminar is scheduled to be held October 11 through 14.

### Maryland

The Maryland Citizens Consumer Council has decided to make mandatory price marking of supermarket merchandise a legislative priority. This effort has been undertaken after an intense study of the proposed supermarket electronic scanning check-out system which uses a computer to store price information for each item in the market. A code for each item is printed on the merchandise and picked up by an electronic scanner at the check-out counter which feeds the information to the computer. The new machinery is referred to as the University Product Code (UPC).

The greatest danger of the UPC to the consumer is the loss of price marking. Shelves may be the only place in the store where prices are clearly marked. The cash register slip will be the only place at home where the price is recorded. Lack of individually marked items will present difficulties.

### Nevada

The Consumers League of Nevada has filed action against the Nevada Dairy Commission claiming that six of its nine members have a conflict of interest concerning a recent decision to increase the price of milk four cents on every half gallon.

In an attempt to raise funds to support the suit, the CLN has requested each of Las Vegas' hotels donate two cents for every half gallon of milk they will use during the 30 day period allowed for judicial review.

The six members of the Commission who CLN has charged with conflict of interest are either producers or distributors of milk in Nevada and would directly benefit from any increase in milk prices.

## Automobile safety suffers another setback

On August 12, a major setback for auto safety occurred when the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to weaken safety requirements for new cars. The gutting amendments offered by Rep. Louis Wyman (R-NH) forbids all seatbelt interlock systems or warnings except dashboard lights and forbids the Department of Transportation from requiring passive restraints (e.g. air bags) after September, 1976.

Because no similar amendment has passed the Senate, the measure must be worked out in conference. Members of the Conference Committee are Reps. Harley O. Staggers (D-W. Va), James T. Broyhill (R-NC), W.S. Stuckey (D-Ga), Samuel L. Devine (R-Ohio) and John E. Moss (D-Calif). Also Senators Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash), Vance Hartke (D-Ind), Frank E. Moss (D-Utah), Marlowe W. Cook (R-Ky) and Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich).

CFA urges our member groups and individuals to write to the conferees urging them to drop the restrictions completely or at least to limit them to 1975 and 1976.

According to the Department of Transportation, 30,000 of the 40,000 occupants of motor vehicles killed last year in highway crashes died as a result of being hurled against their dashboards or injected onto the highway. Half of these people, or 15,000 lives could have been saved had they used a proper restraint system.

Unfortunately, Americans have great reluctance to use seatbelts voluntarily. In 1973, model cars with no seatbelt interlock systems, 70% of the population wore no seatbelts. In 1974 model cars however, with the required interlock system, only 27% of the population goes without this safety precaution. This dramatic increase in seatbelt usage can be attributed to the seatbelt interlock system.

Conferees should also be reminded of the fine job being done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency (NHTSA), and requested to insure that NHTSA's authority is not diminished.



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### CFA News

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