

Join In Food Day, April 17, 1975

SPECIAL REPORT
Consumers and the
94th CONGRESS.



news news news news news

consumer federation of america

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Supermarket Ripoff Fought By Local Consumer Groups

A New Supermarket Ripoff: Packages Without Prices is hot off the presses from Consumer Federation of America. The pamphlet describes the supermarket industry's new computerized check-out system and outlines an action program to help consumer and labor groups meet the challenge of disappearing prices.

In the introduction, CFA explains consumers' outrage at the new gimmick, "The supermarket industry takes the attitude that if the consumers want prices on merchandise it will give them grease pencils so they can mark the prices for their own information. This is typical of the "public-be-damned" attitude the industry takes. It equates on the PR equivalency scale with "let them eat cake."

CFA has outlined a two point program for action. In the legislative area, CFA urges that consumers and workers support Federal, state county and municipal legislation to require that every packaged consumer product have the price plainly marked on it.

CFA also urges that whenever and wherever a store opens with computerized check-out stands and no prices on the merchandise, consumers should let the store manager and the general public know that there is objection to the elimination of price marking.

Perhaps the strongest argument for leaving prices on is the fact that the cost is minimal. A store with \$3 million in annual sales could keep prices on packages for about \$225 per week. Yet, the supermarket industry continues its plans for removing prices in spite of expressed outrage by consumers throughout the country. Last year, for example, shopper ranked "all prices clearly labeled" as the second most important characteristic of a store. Cleanliness was first.

Packages Without Prices answers the basic questions about the computerized check-out system and includes a summary chart of the pros and cons. Copies are available from Consumer Federation of America, 1012 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. **Local UPC report p. 3.**

ACA Bill Begins Crusade Through Congress

On March 12, 1975 the Government Operations Committee voted eleven to one to report S. 200 (The Consumer Protection Act) to the Senate floor by March 21, 1975. The bill would establish an independent, non-regulatory Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) to represent the interests of consumers before federal agencies and courts and to provide the public with information on consumer matters.

On the opening day of hearings, CFA testified that the Agency for Consumer Advocacy is its top legislative priority for the year.

Several amendments to S. 200 were passed.

1) Exempted from the requirement of answering interrogatories are "small businesses" which, as defined under the Act, are those with assets under \$7,500,000.00, a net worth not exceeding \$2,500,000.00, and an average annual net income (after taxes) for the preceding two years of not more than \$250,000.00. Under the amendment sponsored by Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga), the previous requirement that the business have an average of no more than 25 full-time employees over the preceding two years has been deleted.

2) The ACA will be allowed to communicate with and provide information or assistance to state agencies or courts. This compromise amendment offered by Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill) was substituted for an amendment by Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont) which would have permitted ACA to intervene in state regulatory proceedings at the invitation of a state official.

3) An amendment was adopted which was offered by Senator Richard Stone (D-Fla), a co-sponsor of S.200, although not a member of the Committee. The amendment provides that when

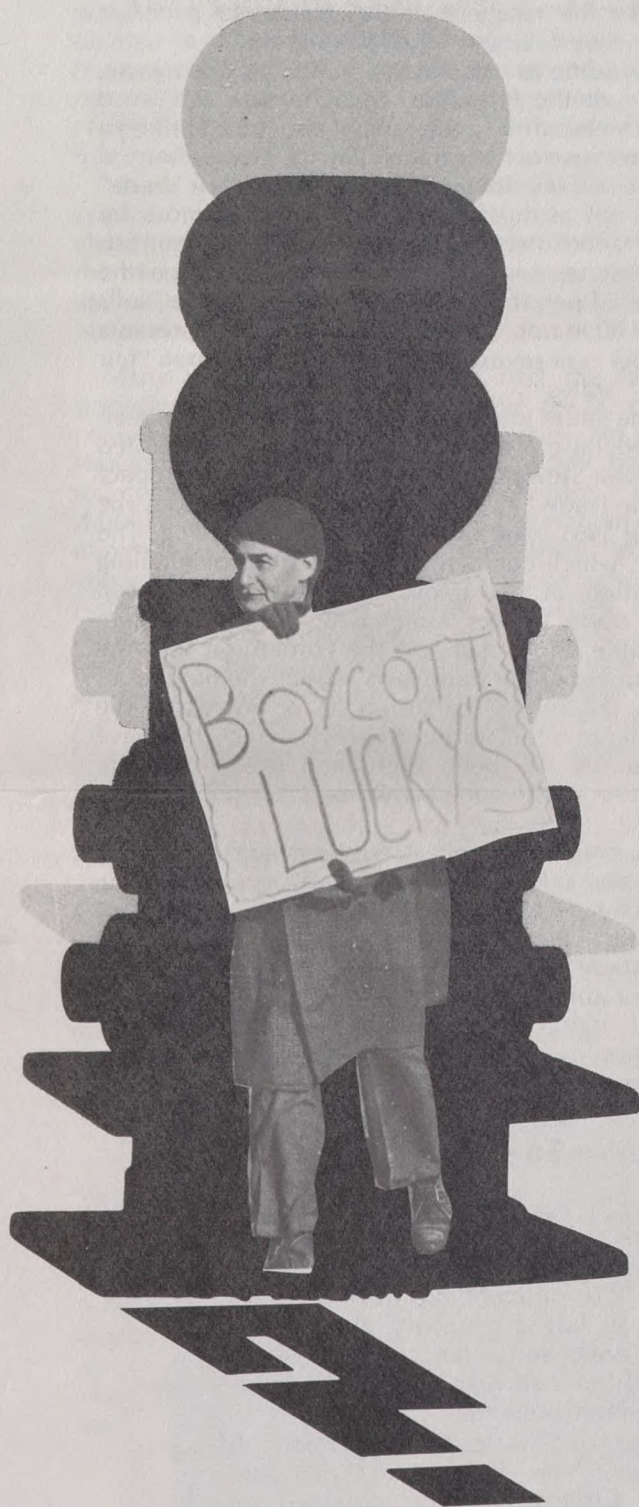
the ACA initiates a judicial review without having participated in the agency's proceeding, it must explain this failure to participate to the court.

4) Complaints which are unsigned may not be placed in the public document room as a result of an amendment by Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla). This amendment denies the consumer public access to facts and issues contained in unsigned letters which are often the only method by which an "insider" can draw attention to an abuse without jeopardizing his own job.

5) Fortunately, the language of S. 200 was brought in line with the Freedom of Information Act and accordingly there will be no prohibition on the disclosure of trade secrets.

6) Finally, a statement of principles presented by Senator William Brock (R-Tenn) will be drafted during the coming week into final amendment language which will require every federal agency to issue a consumer cost impact statement with a new regulation it promulgates. This amendment is of great concern to the consumer because it could substantially increase the paperwork of agencies without a corresponding benefit to the consumer.

Of special interest to the backers of the ACA was the historic change of the filibuster rule on March 1, 1975. Formerly, a two-thirds vote of the Senators present and voting was required to cut off floor debate. Under the new rule, a flat vote of 60 (three-fifths of all Senators) will suffice. As the two-thirds filibuster vote had been a major obstacle to passage of the Consumer Protection Act in the last Congress, it is hoped that the recent change will enhance the likelihood of passage when the bill reaches the Senate floor—probably after the Easter recess.



An angry consumer joins in a protest led by San Francisco Consumer Action against Lucky Supermarket which has removed prices from packages.

SPEAK OUT!

Consumer Centered Car Insurance

by James J. Sheeran, Commissioner of Insurance
for the State of New Jersey

Ideally, any driver ought to be able to walk into an agent's office and purchase the auto insurance he wants from the company of his choice at a price he can afford to pay. Unfortunately, that's not the story of the marketplace as it exists today. In New Jersey, for instance, more than one in every 10 drivers do not enjoy this full availability of auto insurance at affordable costs—and, more often than not, for reasons that do not relate at all to driving ability, driving habits, or driving record.

The problem of assuring full availability is a national one, and it's growing more urgent every day. Before it becomes a full-scale disaster, two of my fellow state commissioners, Ark Monroe of Arkansas and Daniel J. Demlow of Michigan, and I have given it a high number in our listing of consumer priorities that will be discussed in a series of working conferences that we have initiated among ourselves. It is typical of the kind of problem that challenges us at what I call our JAM (Jersey, Arkansas, Michigan) Session. The session is actually an informal alliance of the three states to mount a common effort to find solutions to problems of insurance regulation outside the traditional vehicle for such interstate cooperation—the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Commissioners Demlow and Monroe and I share a common disenchantment with the ability of the NAIC to meet head-on the consumer-related problems in insurance regulation. We believe the NAIC is industry-dominated, and its approach to insurance regulation is still wedded to the traditional, industry-knows-all concept. Today, insurance is big business that, in a variety of forms, has become indispensable to the consumer. It requires not the traditional approach, but a special approach by the regulators, who must never forget that they are the representatives of the consumer (in fact, the only voice the consumer may ever have) and what they do should not be the by-product of the industry's expertise but should arise from their obligation to make sure that the consumer gets a fair shake.

Under the usual NAIC procedure, the industry always bats first, proffering pre-packaged programs with a solemn avowal that they'll be great for the consumer. We want to reverse this procedure. We want to devise legislation from a consumer's point of view, and then let the industry do all the commenting and criticizing it wants.

We want the consumer to get his licks in first.

Nothing Fair About Fair Trade Laws

The Antitrust and Monopoly subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary committee recently completed four days of hearing on a bill that would repeal "fair trade" exemptions in the antitrust laws. An additional two days of hearings have been scheduled for April 9 and 10. Carol Tucker Foreman, CFA's executive director, testifying before the subcommittee on February 19, emphasized CFA's support and approval of this legislation, sponsored by Sen. Edward Brooke (R-Mass.)

Under "fair trade" laws manufacturers are allowed to set a price at or above which brand name items must be sold. No standards are established or defined by "fair trade" laws to guarantee fair prices. Instead, according to Ms. Foreman, "with 'fair trade' there is no competition with regard to price."

"Fair trade" laws force retailers into the role of distribution agents for manufacturers, claimed Ms. Foreman, making it impossible for the retailers to act as effective purchasing agents for consumers. By setting standard product prices manufacturers deprive the retailers of the ability to generate volume by taking a smaller mark-up.

According to calculations in the 1969 Economic Report of the President, Ms. Foreman estimated consumers suffer to the tune of about \$2.1 billion a year because of "fair trade" laws. A Department of Justice survey found consumers in "fair trade" states pay as much as 19 to 27 per cent more for "fair traded" items than do consumers in non "fair trade" states. Ms. Foreman told the committee of a Parker 51 pen that costs \$16.50 in "fair trade" sells for \$9.90 in non "fair-trade" states. This represents a 40 per cent savings to consumers in the non "fair trade" states.

"The entire justification for 'fair trade' has been proved false," stated Ms. Foreman. She quoted Professor Steward Munro Lee's study, "The Impact of Fair Trade Laws on Retailing" published in the Spring 1965 issue of the *Journal of Retailing*. The study, which compared specific areas of retailing conditions in "fair trade" states with those in non "fair trade" states concluded, "The best data available do not support the contention that the enactment of fair trade laws lessens the number of retail failures or bankruptcies or increases the number of retail stores. Whatever effect they have apparently has been slight and in an opposite direction to the one claimed by proponents of fair trade."

Ms. Foreman emphasized the need to stimulate increased sales to reverse the effects of recession we are now experiencing. "One way to do this," she said, "is through lowered prices." Because the "fair trade" laws effective in 36 states limit retailers in their ability to sell at lower prices, Ms. Foreman urged action be taken quickly to remedy this situation by repealing the "fair trade" exemptions of the antitrust laws.

CFA Wins Appeals Court Victory

Consumers scored a new victory in the fight against deregulation of natural gas with a March 14 ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that the Federal Power Commission "exceeded its authority" in allowing pipeline companies to buy gas at unregulated prices for 180 days in the winter of 1973-74.

However, the decision ruled that any refunds of the estimated \$50 million extra charged to consumers under the illegal action would have to be ordered by the FPC and not the Court. This means continued challenging of the FPC by those who feel that the price increases which resulted from the illegal action were an unfair burden to consumers.

The suit which prompted the March 14 ruling was brought by CFA in conjunction with the American Public Power Association, the American Public Gas Association, and the National League of Cities and United States Conference of Mayors. The suit was originally filed in September, 1973, when the disputed FPC action initially went into effect.

At that time, the FPC issued an order allowing all interstate pipeline companies to buy natural gas from producers at whatever price the market would bear, without being subject to FPC price regulation for a 180 day period. The pipeline companies were allowed to pass on to consumers the increased cost of buying gas from producers. This resulted in an estimated \$50 million extra charged to consumers of natural gas.

In the recent suit, the FPC contended that the 180 day exemption from price controls was necessary in order to encourage the increased production which would be necessary to stave off gas shortages in the winter of '73-74. The consumer groups, however, argue that the FPC action was nothing more than administrative deregulation of natural gas prices, which was carried out in secret and without proper authority. The Court agreed with the latter reasoning.

The decision of the Court is significant for consumers and opponents of deregulation in two ways, First, though the 180 day sales of natural gas exemption from price controls have ceased, the

FPC has indicated that it wants the Court to allow them to use this tool again in the future and to make the 180-day sales legal. The March 14 ruling prohibits any such future sales, so consumers will not again have to bear the same burdens of sudden uncontrolled gas prices condoned by the FPC.

Second, there is the possibility that consumer groups can convince the FPC to, in fact, order refunds on the money which was overcharged consumers under the illegal exemption. According to the Court of Appeals decision, the issue of requiring gas companies to refund the money involves "complex and difficult questions" which must be resolved by the Federal Power Commission rather than the courts. This will mean undertaking an entirely new proceeding before the FPC.

Approximately 172 billion cubic feet of natural gas were sold under the 180 day exemption. According to the Court's decision, this gas sold at an average price of 54.4 cents per thousand cubic feet, more than twice the \$.26/mcf rate subject to FPC price regulation at the time.

Task Force Booklet Can Help Conserve Energy In Buildings

To help provide guidelines on cutting energy consumption in large structures, the Energy Policy Task Force of CFA has prepared a publication on "Energy Conservation in Buildings: New Roles for Cities and Citizen Groups."

Buildings account for an estimated one third of all energy used in the United States. Unfortunately, a great deal of this energy is wasted. Simple changes in approach toward building design and construction could save up to 50 per cent of the energy now being used without changing in any significant way the lifestyle of the building inhabitants.

"Energy Conservation in Buildings" was

prepared by the Task Force in cooperation with the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors. It is designed not as a "how to" guidebook, but rather as an introduction to the varied and often complex issues involved in undertaking a building conservation program.

Copies of "Energy Conservation in Buildings: New Roles for Cities and Citizen Groups" can be obtained by writing Ellen Berman, Energy Policy Task Force, 1012 14th St, NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005. Cost of the book is \$3.00, plus \$.50 for postage and handling.

94th Congress—

The Dawn of Congressional Reform

by

MARTHA ROBINSON



Congressional reform is happening.

If the current direction continues, in the long run consumers will almost certainly gain. Should it not work out, or if there are reversals along the way, the public will be no worse off. After all, until a few short weeks ago, the House of Representatives was still not-so-affectionately dubbed the "burial ground" for consumer legislation.

Power is no longer the sole prerogative of the senior members of the House. No longer, under new rules adopted by the Democratic majority, will committee chairmen be picked for the job because of age and length of service. Now they must stand for election by the full party caucus every two years.

No longer will committee assignments be parceled out by a handful of senior members who happen to be on the Ways & Means Committee. Instead, the party's 25-member steering and policy committee will decide. Once named, the committee members themselves will determine the number and jurisdiction of subcommittees.

Future subcommittees must have names descriptive of their responsibilities to prevent chairmen from keeping prestigious legislation for themselves. Subcommittees now have greater assurance of staff support and more adequate budgets.

Many new House members joined the long-smoldering reform fight. In all, there are 92 new congressmen. Of these, 75 are Democrats. No one should necessarily equate the influx of new blood to consumerism, liberalism or progress. Nor should the power of freshman congressman be minimized. About a third have been given consumer committee assignments. Virginia's Joe Fisher is dumbfounding plenty of history and tradition by not only nailing a seat on Ways and Means, but by becoming the chairman's ace on energy legislation. Fisher has coordinated the committee's energy task force and drafted the plan Chairman Ullamn hopes to negotiate with the White House.

Surveys reported by the *National Observer* and *Washington Post* show these freshmen members as tough campaigners, liberal, mostly lawyers, fortyish, having held local and state offices, in favor of national health care but divided over how to pay for it, concerned that the federal government spends too much on defense and not enough on domestic needs, for aggressive anti-trust action to break up monopolies, against constitutional amendments banning abortion.

Capitol Hill observers generally agree that much of the pressure for reform this year is generated by the need to demonstrate a specific record on which to base a re-election campaign two years hence. Plain and simple, many of the freshmen come from conservative and/or Republican territory. They were elected because of the economy and Watergate. Their constituencies—as are most voters—are concerned about the marketplace, jobs, housing, energy, the environment.



Ways And Means

A major goal of the reformists was to overhaul the three most powerful House committees on Ways and Means, Appropriations and Rules. These and other committees are where the real work of Congress takes place.

In order to pave the way for national health care and tax reform, for example, the footdragging, obstructionist, all-powerful Ways and Means Committee was stripped of its prerogatives to make committee assignments. Its membership was increased from 25 to 37. Wilbur Mills was persuaded to resign as chairman. Over the years, Mills played it close to the vest, never delegating authority to subcommittees, so the business of the committee was how, when, and if Mills wanted it transacted. There are now six subcommittees to deal with social security, health, unemployment compensation, trade, public assistance, oversight, and the special task force on energy. Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore) is the new chairman. He's voted more for consumers than against them over the past four years.

But none of this guarantees national health insurance legislation. As a matter of fact, some consumer lobbyists are already alarmed that a subcommittee may go along with legislation providing health insurance for the unemployed through payment of premiums to the exclusion of a national system. That's just what the insurance companies would like to have in their arsenal of weapons to use against a comprehensive plan—to say that the need has been satisfied. On the energy front, Ways and Means is expected to play a major role along with Rep. John Dingell's new Commerce subcommittee on energy.

Rules

Two other major committees have been singled out for special treatment by the Democrats.

The House Speaker is now empowered to name the Rules Committee members. If conservatives are permitted to continue the arbitrary and traditional bottlenecking of legislation reported by committees so that the full House is denied an opportunity to debate and vote the issues, Speaker Albert risks the wrath of the Democratic caucus.

Appropriations

As for the Appropriations Committee—the pursestrings to federal regulatory agencies and other government offices—the caucus kept for itself the right to elect subcommittee chairmen because of the special power they have over our federal programs. Texas conservative George Mahon retains chairmanship of Appropriations; however, in the face of a caucus challenge and environmental and consumer lobbies to depose him, anti-consumerist Jamie L. Whitten (D-Miss) voluntarily gave up jurisdiction over "consumer and environmental protection." His Appropriations subcommittee now covers Agriculture and Related Matters. This put John Slack of West Virginia in the chairmanship of the important State, Justice, Commerce and Judiciary subcom-

mittee which controls appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission. This year, for example, Slack's committee will decide whether FTC's line-of-business program is continued. Slack votes with consumers about half the time according to CFA's 4-year voting record.

Consumers will also need to monitor the HUD-Independent Agency subcommittee headed by Massachusetts Democrat Edward Boland. His jurisdiction covers the Consumer Product Safety Commission. President Ford has recommended freezing CPSC to its present level of spending—a step backward in CFA's opinion. Boland has a good consumer voting record.

Daniel Flood of Pennsylvania—another fairly solid consumer man—heads the Appropriations subcommittee on Labor-Health, Education and Welfare. This subcommittee decides whether or not to fund, for example, the \$3-million consumer education program authorized by Congress several years ago but never previously included in the budget and funded.

Banking, Currency and Housing

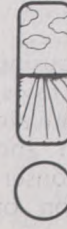
While the House of Representatives has changed a lot, the Banking, Currency and Housing Committee (formerly Banking and Currency) has changed even more significantly. Membership is expanded slightly, from 40 to 43. There are only 16 Democratic and 7 GOP holdovers. The new line-up boasts 13 freshmen Democrats and 6 freshmen Republicans. The Democratic caucus—over the pleas of consumers—replaced Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex), the 82-year old chairman, with Henry S. Reuss, 62, a Milwaukee lawyer elected to Congress in 1954. Reuss was the committee's fourth-ranking Democrat under Patman, Reps. William Barrett (Pa) and Leonor Sullivan (Mo)—all advocates of consumer legislation.

Since 1971, Reuss has supported consumers on 28 issues, voted wrong only once and failed to vote on two occasions. If patterns of voting are valid, Reuss should be a friend of consumers. He is highly regarded and well respected in Congress as a man who does his homework and knows the business of this committee. Under his leadership, three, possibly four, subcommittees are of particular concern to consumers:

Consumer Affairs

This subcommittee handles all matters pertaining to consumer credit, including truth-in-lending, extortionate credit transactions, restrictions on garnishments, reports of the National Commission on Consumer Finance, fair credit reporting, collection practices, discrimination in the extension of consumer credit, creditor remedies, debtor offenses, federal aspects of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code, credit cards, price of consumer goods, services and commodities, rationing of consumer products and hoarding.

In the reorganization, Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-Ill) took over the subcommittee from Rep. Sullivan. She's now the ranking Democrat. While



Annunzio generally supports CFA positions, last year he opposed continued regulatory authority over real estate settlement costs connected to federal mortgage guarantees. He also voted wrong on motor vehicle and school bus safety amendments and on extending broadcast license renewals to five years. In 1973, Annunzio voted wrong on NOW Accounts by opposing a Banking Committee amendment to delete a provision forbidding mutual savings bank from maintaining interest bearing checking accounts.

Annunzio has plunged into subcommittee business by inviting consumer groups, government agencies and business to sound off about unresolved consumer problems. Staff members expect early consideration of amendments prohibiting credit discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, age or national origin. Truth-in-savings is on the agenda. In addition, Annunzio reportedly stands ready to call hearings on any excessive price rises confronting consumers—such as the outrageous sugar price hikes.

Other Democratic members of the consumer subcommittee are Barrett, Henry Gonzales (Tex), Walter Fauntroy (D.C.), freshman Stephen Neal (NC) and Gladys Spellman (Md). The GOP has Chalmers Wylie (Ohio) along with newcomers Millicent Fenwick (NJ) and Charles Grassley (Iowa). Neal, 41, a journalist from Winston-Salem, campaigned on economy issues, favoring wage-price controls and tax reform. Gladys Spellman—based on a full career in local politics—is expected to be in the consumers' camp. Fenwick, New Jersey's pipe-smoking consumer chief, ran an anti-inflation campaign. Her consumer advocacy record neutralized labor in the election, and her election is considered a definite plus for consumers. Grassley, on the other hand, may be a chip off the old block. He succeeded obstructionist H. R. Gross, is a rural conservative farmer, about 42.

Financial Institutions, Supervision, Regulations and Insurance

This subcommittee will consider variable interest rates on home mortgages, interest rate ceiling on deposits. Fernand J. St. Germain (RI)—a consumer-voting-congressman in the past—is chairman. Members include Annunzio, Barrett, Patman, Fauntroy, William Moorhead (Pa), James Hanley (NY), Thomas Ashley (Ohio) and Lindy Boggs (La). Most have demonstrated support for consumer issues. Newcomers include Neal, Jerry Patterson (Ca), who ran a fairly conservative campaign against an ex-POW, Butler Derrick, a South Carolina lawyer, and Kentucky's Carroll Hubbard, a 38-year-old state legislator who beat out an 8-term congressman. GOP seats belong to conservatives Wylie, Albert Johnson (Pa), John Rousset (Ca), Garry Brown (Mich) and two midwest freshmen, Willis Gradison and Henry Hyde. Gradison is a local politician from Cincinnati. He lost a special election at the height of Watergate but won against incumbent Luken by some 3000 votes in the '74 general election. Hyde, an attorney, spent 8 years in the Illinois legislature where he earned a reputation as an effective, outspoken lawmaker. Hyde takes over from an 18-year GOP veteran who represented his district by opposing consumers more often than not.

Housing and Community Development

This subcommittee will handle most housing and mortgage credit issues including interest rates, rural housing, housing assistants programs, private mortgage insurance, housing construction and design standards, housing-related energy conservation, landlord tenant matters, regulation of

neighborhood facilities grants, open space land and urban beautification grants, public facilities loans, national, urban or community development banks, advance acquisition of land programs, new communities assistance, national urban growth policies, land-use and areawide programs, flood insurance, interstate land sales.

Housing is headed by William Barrett (Pa.). He's backed up by Sullivan, Ashley, Moorhead, St. Germain, Gonzales, Hanley, Fauntroy and Boggs. Other members include Robert Stephens (Ga), who votes for consumers less than half the time, Parren Mitchell (Md.), who supports consumers almost always, and Thomas Rees (Ca), who has a consumer rating of about 80%. Freshmen members include: Patterson; Andrew Maguire (NJ), 36, a former intern to Sen. Jackson, an adviser

censured by the state supreme court, acquitted by the state senate and then reelected twice. Kelly ran an anti-inflation, cut-federal-spending campaign. John Conlon (Ariz), the eighth GOP member, has been in Congress since 1973. Out of 21 recorded votes, he has never supported consumers.

Economic Stabilization

For all practical purposes, this subcommittee deals with wage-price controls. Thomas Ashley chairs, with members Sullivan, Rees, Patterson, Maguire, Hubbard, Spellman, St. Germain, LaFalce, plus some more new blood from Michigan's James Blanchard and Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts. Blanchard is a former Muskie, RFK worker. In the '74 campaign, he attacked federal

*Major Consumer Committees C

BANKING, CURRENCY AND HOUSING

1. Henry S. Reuss, Wis., chairman
2. Wright Patman, Tex.
3. William A. Barrett, Pa.
4. Leonor K. (Mrs. John B.) Sullivan, Mo.
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6. William S. Moorhead, Pa.
7. Robert G. Stephens, Jr., Ga.
8. Fernand J. St Germain, R.I.
9. Henry B. Gonzalez, Tex.
10. Joseph G. Minish, N.J.
11. Frank Annunzio, Ill.
12. Thomas M. Rees, Calif.
13. James M. Hanley, N.Y.
14. Parren J. Mitchell, Md.
15. Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.
16. Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs, La.
17. Stephen L. Neal, N.C.
18. Jerry M. Patterson, Calif.
19. James J. Blanchard, Mich.
20. Andrew Maguire, N.J.
21. Harold E. Ford, Tenn.
22. Carroll Hubbard, Jr., Ky.
23. John J. LaFalce, N.Y.
24. Gladys Noon Spellman, Md.
25. Les AuCoin, Oreg.
26. Paul E. Tsongas, Mass.
27. Butler Derrick, S.C.
28. Philip H. Hayes, Ind.
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3. Garry Brown, Mich.
4. Chalmers P. Wylie, Ohio
5. John H. Rousset, Calif.
6. Stewart B. McKinney, Conn.
7. John B. Conlan, Ariz.
8. George Hansen, Idaho
9. Richard T. Schulze, Pa.
10. Willis D. Gradison, Jr., Ohio
11. Henry J. Hyde, Ill.
12. Richard Kelly, Fla.
13. Charles E. Grassley, Iowa
14. Millicent Fenwick, N.J.

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3. E de la Garza, Tex.
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6. Ed Jones, Tenn.
7. John Melcher, Mont.
8. Dawson Mathis, Ga.
9. Bob Bergland, Minn.
10. George E. Brown, Jr., Calif.
11. David R. Bowen, Miss.
12. Charles Rose, N.C.
13. Jerry Litton, Mo.
14. John Breckinridge, Ky.
15. Frederick W. Richmond, N.Y.
16. Richard Nolan, Minn.
17. James Weaver, Oreg.
18. Alvin Baldus, Wis.
19. John Krebs, Calif.
20. Tom Harkin, Iowa

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13. John Conyers, Jr., Mich.
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15. James V. Stanton, Ohio
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17. Cardiss Collins, Ill.
18. John L. Burton, Calif.
19. Richardson Preyer, N.C.
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21. Robert F. Drinan, Mass.
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23. Barbara Jordan, Tex.
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26. David W. Evans, Ind.
27. Anthony Toby Moffett, Conn.
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4. Clarence J. Brown, Ohio
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7. Sam Steiger, Ariz.
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9. Charles Thone, Nebr.
10. Alan Steelman, Tex.
11. Joel Pritchard, Wash.
12. Edwin B. Forsythe, N.J.
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14. Willis D. Gradison, Jr., Ohio

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3. John E. Moss, Calif.
4. John D. Dingell, Mich.
5. Paul G. Rogers, Fla.
6. Lionel Van Deerlin, Calif.
7. Fred B. Rooney, Pa.
8. John M. Murphy, N.Y.
9. David E. Satterfield III, Va.
10. Brock Adams, Wash.
11. W. S. (Bill) Stuckey, Jr., Ga.
12. Bob Eckhardt, Tex.
13. Richardson Preyer, N.C.
14. James W. Symington, Mo.
15. Charles J. Carney, Ohio
16. Ralph H. Metcalfe, Ill.
17. Goodloe E. Byron, Md.
18. James H. Scheuer, N.Y.
19. Richard L. Ottinger, N.Y.
20. Henry A. Waxman, Calif.
21. Robert (Bob) Krueger, Tex.

*Republicans shown in italics, Democrats in medium.

settlement costs and other real estate lending powers of financial institutions. Jurisdiction extends to community development and planning, training, research, block grants, urban renewal, model cities, rehabilitation loans and grants, to the UN, and director of a NYC planning office; Harold Ford (Tenn), the man who ousted incumbent Rep. Dan Kuykendall, the 4-term Congressman and friend of President Nixon; John LaFalce (NY), a state senator from a GOP district; Les AuCoin (Ore), who also captured a Republican district with help from labor, education, and campaign promises to assist business, provide jobs and tax relief.

The Housing subcommittee minority includes Brown, Rousset, Wylie and Grassley. The others are consumer question-marks: William Stanton

(Ohio); Stewart McKinney (Conn); and newcomer Richard Kelly, the Florida judge once impeached by his state legislature, censured by the state supreme court, acquitted by the state legislature, spending and inadequate anti-trust enforcement, advocated a tax break for low and middle income wage earners. Tsongas is a local politician concerned about relief for economically depressed areas, a past Peace Corpsman, and the first Democrat in this century to be elected from his district.

The GOP includes McKinney, Stanton, Gradison, Kelly and Richard Schulze (Pa), successor to retiring John Ware. Schulze is a party politician, has held a variety of local offices, served in the state legislature, and worked for Goldwater in 1964.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Although Rep. Harley Staggers (D-W.Va) kept chairmanship of House Interstate and Foreign Commerce affairs, the reform movement left its mark on the structure and organization of the committee.

"There's a shift in emphasis," says one staff member. "Before, the chairman set the pace. He ran a strong, central committee. Now we are really a confederation of autonomous subcommittees with each subcommittee deciding priorities and budget, each to have its own budget and staff."

Consumers must look to four Commerce subcommittees:

The scorecard on Van Deerlin shows a perfect voting record in 1973 and 85% in 1974. In the two preceding years, he deserted consumers on two issues involving an energy study and the cyclamate pay-off under which industry was to be reimbursed for losses incurred as a result of a government ban on using the artificial sweetener.

Since taking the chairmanship, Van Deerlin has concentrated on moving last year's securities and exchange legislation to the full committee rather than starting from scratch with unnecessary, time consuming deliberations that would tie up other consumer bills. The bill was fully heard by committee in the past session of Congress, but blocked by the Rules Committee under pressure by stock exchange interests. High priority will be given no-fault auto insurance with hearings

legislation. One Democratic vacancy exists on the full Commerce committee. The person who fills that seat will most likely be named to this subcommittee. His vote could be crucial in determining the extent of consumer interest in this committee.

The GOP seats go to John McCollister (Neb) and Matthew Rinaldo (NJ). McCollister rarely, if ever, votes with consumers. Rinaldo, with only one term on which to compile a record, votes right about 75%.

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

This subcommittee has oversight and investigatory (not legislative) jurisdiction over communications, energy and power, health and the environment, consumer protection and finance, transportation and commerce.

Chairman John E. Moss (Ca) is a consumer man with plenty of experience. He figures he needs a \$600,000 budget (up 20% from last year) to do the job. He plans an extremely active committee, starting with alleged gas supply shortages, the impact of federal agencies on the economy and the degree of their independence, plus a look at the health delivery system. Since Commerce has been given partial jurisdiction over national health insurance, Moss' upcoming inquiry into health costs, the quality of care and related issues is preliminary to consideration by Rep. Rogers' health subcommittee.

Except for Stuckey, Richard L. Ottinger (NY), who served in Congress from 1965 to 1971, and James Scheuer (NY), who was in the House from 1965 to 1973, Moss' Democratic colleagues are all brand new to Congress.

Ottinger is regarded as an unquestionable champion of consumer interests along with Anthony (Toby) Moffett, a young activist from Connecticut who organized a consumer lobby back home and came to Congress pledging to continue Nader-type investigations. Scheuer voted right on eleven of the twelve key consumer issues before Congress in 1971 and 1972. Jim Santini (Nev) has been a public defender, judge and teacher. His priorities—stated in the campaign—include tax reform, congressional and election reforms. Robert Krueger is a Texas businessman-teacher-Shakespearean scholar, whose constituency is largely farmers and ranchers in rural areas, concerned about inflation, honesty and economy in government. Henry Waxman (Ca) is a state legislator who supports national health insurance, fair credit laws for women and campaign reform.

The GOP members of this committee seem overwhelmingly anti-consumer. James Collins of Texas has cast only three right votes for consumers in the past four years. Norman Lent of New York has voted right 13 out of 31 times. Ed Madigan of Illinois, elected in 1972, has voted right in 7 out of 21 tries.

Energy and Power

Jurisdiction covers all petroleum, natural gas and electrical power issues.

Another pro-consumer, experienced legislator, John Dingell of Michigan, heads this new subcommittee. Eckhardt, Ottinger, Brodhead, Krueger and Moffett are in the Democratic line-up with two more newcomers: Timothy Wirth (Colo), comes with experience in land-use, water, energy and environmental affairs, Philip Sharp (Ind) is a political science professor.

Clarence Brown in the ranking Republican. Past voting records of Carlos Moorhead (Ca) and James Brodhead (NC) indicate they may be equally non-supportive toward the consumer. H. John Heinz, III (Pa), on the other hand, has compiled a 17-right, 5-wrong, 1-no-vote record since coming to Congress in 1972.

Four days of energy hearings before Dingell's subcommittee in February were largely unnoticed

Members Of U.S. House Of Representatives

CULTURE

Chairman

21. Jack Hightower, Tex.
22. Berkley Bedell, Iowa
23. Matthew F. McHugh, N.Y.
24. Glenn English, Okla.
25. Floyd J. Fithian, Ind.
26. John W. Jenrette, Jr., S.C.
27. Norman E. D'Amours, N.H.
28. _____
29. _____

1. William C. Wampler, Va.
2. Keith G. Sebelius, Kans.
3. Paul Findley, Ill.
4. Charles Thone, Nebr.
5. Steven D. Symms, Idaho
6. James P. (Jim) Johnson, Colo.
7. Edward R. Madigan, Ill.
8. Peter A. Peyser, N.Y.
9. Margaret M. Heckler, Mass.
10. James M. Jeffords, Vt.
11. Richard Kelly, Fla.
12. Charles E. Grassley, Iowa
13. Tom Hagedorn, Minn.
14. W. Henson Moore, La.

FOREIGN COMMERCE

Chairman

Ass.

22. Timothy E. Wirth, Colo.
23. Philip R. Sharp, Ind.
24. William M. Brodhead, Mich.
25. W. G. (Bill) Hefner, N.C.
26. James J. Florio, N.J.
27. Anthony Toby Moffett, Conn.
28. Jim Santini, Nev.
29. Andrew Maguire, N.J.

1. Samuel L. Devine, Ohio
2. James T. Brodhill, N.C.
3. Tim Lee Carter, Ky.
4. Clarence J. Brown, Ohio
5. Joe Skubitz, Kans.
6. James F. Hastings, N.Y.
7. James M. Collins, Tex.
8. Louis Frey, Jr., Fla.
9. John Y. McCollister, Nebr.
10. Norman F. Lent, N.Y.
11. H. John Heinz III, Pa.
12. Edward R. Madigan, Ill.
13. Carlos J. Moorhead, Calif.
14. Matthew J. Rinaldo, N.J.

APPROPRIATIONS

1. George H. Mahon, Tex., chairman
2. Jamie L. Whitten, Miss.
3. Robert L. F. Sikes, Fla.
4. Otto E. Passman, La.
5. Joe L. Evins, Tenn.
6. Edward P. Boland, Mass.
7. William H. Natcher, Ky.
8. Daniel J. Flood, Pa.
9. Tom Steed, Okla.
10. George E. Shipley, Ill.
11. John M. Slack, W. Va.
12. John J. Flynt, Jr., Ga.
13. Neal Smith, Iowa
14. Robert N. Giaimo, Conn.
15. Joseph P. Addabbo, N.Y.
16. John J. McFall, Calif.
17. Edward J. Patten, N.J.
18. Clarence D. Long, Md.
19. Sidney R. Yates, Ill.
20. Bob Casey, Tex.
21. Frank E. Evans, Colo.
22. David R. Obey, Wis.
23. Edward R. Roybal, Calif.
24. Louis Stokes, Ohio
25. J. Edward Roush, Ind.
26. Gunn McKay, Utah
27. Tom Bevill, Ala.
28. Bill Chappell, Jr., Fla.
29. Bill D. Burlison, Mo.
30. Bill Alexander, Ark.
31. Edward I. Koch, N.Y.
32. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Calif.
33. John P. Murtha, Pa.
34. Bob Traxler, Mich.
35. Robert Duncan, Oreg.
36. Joseph D. Early, Mass.
37. Max Baucus, Mont.
1. Elford A. Cederberg, Mich.
2. Robert H. Michel, Ill.
3. Silvio O. Conte, Mass.
4. Garner E. Shriver, Kans.
5. Joseph M. McDade, Pa.
6. Mark Andrews, N. Dak.
7. Burt L. Talcott, Calif.
8. Jack Edwards, Ala.
9. Robert C. McEwen, N.Y.
10. John T. Myers, Ind.
11. J. Kenneth Robinson, Va.
12. Clarence E. Miller, Ohio
13. Lawrence Coughlin, Pa.
14. C. W. Bill Young, Fla.
15. Jack F. Kemp, N.Y.
16. William L. Armstrong, Colo.
17. Ralph S. Regula, Ohio
18. Clair W. Burgener, Calif.
19. William R. Cotter, Conn.
20. Fortney H. (Pete) Stark, Calif.
21. James R. Jones, Okla.
22. Andrew Jacobs, Jr., Ind.
23. Abner J. Mikva, Ill.
24. Martha Keys, Kans.
25. Joseph L. Fisher, Va.

WAYS AND MEANS

1. Al Ullman, Oreg., chairman
2. Wilbur D. Mills, Ark.
3. James A. Burke, Mass.
4. Dan Rostenkowski, Ill.
5. Phil M. Landrum, Ga.
6. Charles A. Vanik, Ohio
7. Richard H. Fulton, Tenn.
8. Omar Burleson, Tex.
9. James C. Corman, Calif.
10. William J. Green, Pa.
11. Sam Gibbons, Fla.
12. Joe D. Waggoner, Jr., La.
13. Joseph E. Karth, Minn.
14. Otis G. Pike, N.Y.
15. Richard F. Vander Veen, Mich.
16. J. J. Pickle, Tex.
17. Henry Helstoski, N.J.
18. Charles B. Rangel, N.Y.
1. Herman T. Schneebeli, Pa.
2. Barber B. Conable, Jr., N.Y.
3. John J. Duncan, Tenn.
4. Donald D. Clancy, Ohio
5. Bill Archer, Tex.
6. Guy Vander Jagt, Mich.
7. William A. Steiger, Wis.
8. Philip M. Crane, Ill.
9. Bill Frenzel, Minn.
10. James G. Martin, N.C.
11. L. A. (Skip) Bafalis, Fla.
12. _____

Consumer Protection and Finance

Jurisdiction includes toxic substances, product safety, motor vehicle safety, securities and exchanges, regulation of trade (FTC matters), insurance (including no-fault).

The man in charge is Lionel Van Deerlin. A former newspaperman from San Diego elected to Congress in 1962, this is his first committee chairmanship. Friends expect him to facilitate the flow and consideration of legislation, and to have a smooth-running operation. They say he is unusually frank about his lack of leadership experience, that he reminds himself he is "not the repository of all wisdom" and needs to "feel his way."

expected by May. In the meantime, the new chairman may hold hearings on his own legislation to regulate charitable contributions solicited by mail. Toxic substances legislation is also on the burner. And Texas Democrat Robert Eckhardt has re-introduced his class action bill with the hope it will get through this committee and the Congress this year. Under this measure, consumers with small losses could collectively sue for damages if the total loss was at least \$25,000 and each individual loss was at least \$10.

Other Democrats on Van Deerlin's committee include: William Stuckey (Ga), who casts an occasional consumer vote; Ralph Metcalfe (Ill), with an 80% record; and newcomer William Brodhead, a Michigan state legislator, involved in revenue sharing, landlord-tenant, and land sales

by the national press which seems preoccupied with the role of the Ways and Means Committee, the White House and other interests in energy legislation. Cross jurisdiction cause some of the confusion. The President's energy proposal, for example, is divided among House Commerce, Armed Services, Banking, Currency and Housing, and Ways and Means Committees. Thus, it is not always clear who's doing what about energy. In outlining the role of his subcommittee, Dingell has announced his intention to work closely with Ways and Means Chairman Ullman whose committee must handle all tax-writing matters. In any event, deregulation of natural gas, an anathema to consumers and boondoggle for industry, comes under Dingell.

Health and the Environment

Jurisdiction encompasses public health and quarantine, hospital construction, mental health and research, biomedical programs and health protection in general, including medicaid and national health insurance, foods and drugs, drug abuse, the Clean Air Act and environmental protection in general.

Chairmanship stays with Paul Rogers (Fla) who votes with consumers about 60% of the time. Except for the newcomers who have no record and Virginia's David Satterfield, who has only voted right five times in four years, Rogers' committee seems strongly consumer-oriented. Richardson Preyer (NC), for example, vote more often than not with consumers on the various issues before Congress. Newcomer Waxman (Ca) is believed to be liberal. Support is anticipated from James Floria (NJ), an attorney-state legislator with interests in urban renewal, civil rights, aging. William Hefner (NC), a broadcaster, promoter and singer of gospel music, ran a combined anti-inflation, renewal-of-morality campaign. The subcommittee has one Democratic vacancy.

The minority includes three known non-consumer forces: Tim Carter, a Kentucky doctor elected to Congress in 1970; Broyhill (NC); and James Hastings, a New York businessman. Since 1971, Hastings has cast three right votes out of thirty-one possible. Heinz is also among the minority.

Government Operations

Upheaval, while not necessarily the result of the House revolt, also characterizes the Government Operations Committee, now chaired by Texas Democrat Jack Brooks. His elevation from ranking majority member comes as a result of retirement by long-time chairman Cet Holifield (Ca). Except for energy matters where his oil-state background dominates, Brooks tends to vote with consumers. He has 19 Democratic and 11 Republican holdovers on the committee plus a lot of that new blood.

The major consumer issue under Government Operations is the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA), previously known as the consumer protection agency bill. Here, as on the Senate side, the question is what kind and how strong a bill can be passed.

Benjamin Rosenthal (NY), the original sponsor of consumer advocacy legislation in the days before it was considered important enough to filibuster to death, chairs the new Government Operations Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs.

In 1971, Rosenthal voted against the consumer advocacy bill on the final vote after fighting for and losing strengthening amendments in committee and on the floor. Rosenthal's vote was a protest against the bill that was not as strong as it should have been. Except for four missed votes in as many years, Rosenthal is 100% with consumers.

His 11-member subcommittee includes seven new members, five of whom are new to the Congress this year. Based on past voting patterns, Cardiss Collins (Ill), Robert Drinan (Mass) and

Edward Mezvisky (Iowa) are solid consumer votes. The newcomers include: Eliot Levitas (Ga), a moderate with experience in the state legislature; David Evans (Ind), who defeated 12-term Republican William Bray, with a consumer

platform; Andrew Maguire, a New Jersey public affairs consultant believed responsive to consumer causes and Anthony (Toby) Moffett, the Connecticut activist who's also starting out with an important Commerce committee assignment.

On the minority side, no real support is expected from Clarence Brown (Ohio) as indicated with respect to his Commerce committee assignments. John Erlenborn (Ill) is another long-standing antagonist. He's cast 6 right votes out of 31 in the last four years, and he's been in the forefront of efforts to weaken consumer advocacy legislation. The only hope from the GOP is Willis D. Gradison, Jr., the Ohio businessman-investment broker on Banking, Currency and Housing.

The strong Rosenthal subcommittee, combined with a full committee which is generally favorably disposed toward consumers, creates an unusual sense of optimism. Legislation involving commerce and consumer issues in the following agencies will be of concern to Rosenthal's subcommittee: Department of Commerce; Federal Trade Commission; Consumer Product Safety Commission; Council on Wage and Price Stability; Export-Import Bank; Overseas Private Investment Corporation; Small Business Administration; Council of Economic Advisors; Council on Economic Policy. In addition, the subcommittee handles monetary matters pertaining to the Department of the Treasury, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Federal Reserve System, Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, United States International Trade Commission, Tax Court, Securities and Exchange Commission.

Agriculture

How much the overthrow of Texas Democrat W. R. Poage as Agriculture chairman helps consumers is uncertain. There are two new urban members who joined Peter Peyser (R-NY) on the committee. Without the new rules forged by House reformists, even that much of a gain was not likely. Thomas S. Foley (Wash) was drafted for the chairmanship. Under his leadership so far, legislation freezing the price of food stamps has passed Congress.

CFA's score card ranks Foley at at out 83%. The three urban members new to the Agriculture this year are Frederick W. Richmond and Peter Peyser of New York, and Margaret Heckler of Massachusetts. Richmond is a freshman Democrat from Brooklyn. As city councilman, he pushed consumer and housing bills and is credited with setting up a constituent service. Peyser and Heckler, both Republicans, have compiled 70% voting records with CFA.

Senate Shifts

Consumers will look to five major Senate committees this year. In contrast to the House, the shifts are more subtle. It's more of a continuing movement toward a more consumer-minded Senate.

The closest thing to revolution was the change in Senate Rule 22, on March 9, which made it easier to cut off debate and stop the filibuster. It was precisely this archaic procedure that caused defeat of the consumer advocacy bill in 1971 and 1974. Cloture can now be invoked by a vote of 3/5ths of the 100 members of the Senate, or 60 votes. In the past 2/3rds of those present and voting were required. The ACA bill registered 65 votes for cloture on the last vote last year.

Overall Senate changes—mostly improvements—look like this:

—The Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash), lost Marlow

Cook and gained Wendell H. Ford (Ky) who takes pride in his work for consumers when he was Governor.

—Commerce also lost Sen. Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn) and gained Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn) who is expected to co-sponsor tough anti-trust legislation.

—In addition, Commerce is strengthened with Sen. James Pearson (R-Kan) taking over as ranking Republican, a post held by New Hampshire conservative Norris Cotton in years past. Pearson, with Se. Walter Mondale, had led the fight to change Rule 22. He has been a sponsor of co-sponsor of the important consumer legislation to have passed Congress.

—One looming drawback is the assignment of Sen. James Buckley (R-NY) to Commerce. In doing the bidding of the oil and gas industry, Buckley is determined to enact legislation to deregulate the price of natural gas.

—It is significant, too, that Commerce has set up a special subcommittee on oil and gas, chaired by Sen. Adlai Stevenson, III (D-Ill).

The consumer subcommittee run by Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah) will give priority to: no fault auto insurance, the consumer food act, consumer fraud measures, dealer-in-court, advertising, product-testing, health bill of rights, model mechanics and repair licensing, independent testing laboratory certification, improvement of redress mechanisms, class actions, oversight activities involving the food industry, fair packaging and labeling, radiation, product safety.

—The Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee with jurisdiction over truth-in-savings, age and race discrimination in credit, variable interest rate mortgages and other CFA concerns has a new look under the chairmanship of Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis). He takes over from Alabama Sen. John Sparkman who now heads Foreign Relations.

—Most observers believe consumers will have a big asset in Sen. Robert Morgan, the new North Carolina Democrat who helped form that state's voluntary consumer organization and who ran for the Senate on the basis of his consumer record as attorney general.

—Another big switch on Capitol Hill in Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's succession to chairmanship of Government Operations, made possible by the retirement of Sen. Sam Ervin (D-NC). Ribicoff was an original sponsor of consumer advocacy legislation, he's supported the measure in subcommittee only to be thwarted by Ervin in full committee and on the floor. Ervin, for all the respect he commands as a constitutionalist, fought with all his might against consumer legislation and, with Sen. James Allen (D-Ala), successfully filibustered the consumer advocacy bill to death on more than one occasion.

—Government Operations also picks up Sen. John H. Glenn (D-Ohio) and Sen. Weicker.

—Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich) stays on as chairman of the Judiciary anti-trust subcommittee with plans for divestiture legislation, repeal of the fair trade act, and an inquiry into industrial product standards. Others on the consumer front, Hart, Senators Church (D-Idaho) and Stevenson are proposing legislation to make the government, rather than private industry, the sole importer of foreign oil.

—With the addition of Senators Richard B. Stone (D-Fla) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt) to the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the scales are tipped a little more strongly toward farmers and consumers as opposed to the excesses of agri-business and the middlemen. This seems partially plausible considering that Agriculture also includes Humphrey and McGovern who can be influenced by national interests, Sen. Watler Huddleston (D-Ky), whose views are fairly moderate, and Sen. Dick Clark, the liberal Democrat from Iowa.

Supermarket Ripoff continued

As a result of the many detrimental aspects of the UPC, consumer groups throughout the country are making visible price marking a high priority project.

Local Action Report

"We, along with many other consumer groups across the country, are appalled that a system fraught with many dangers stands on the brink of reality without so much as token communication between the food industry and consumerist." This statement by Catherine Johnson of San Francisco Consumer Action, defines why many consumer organizations across the country are beginning to plan actions protesting the Universal Product Code.

Consumer coalitions working toward these ends have been formed in over a dozen states, including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. To date, most state and local activity has been concentrated on lobbying for legislation that would require prices to be marked on each packaged item. These bills have had varying degrees of success. Arkansas Consumer Research drafted and submitted a bill modelled after two unsuccessful pieces of legislation filed in the Maryland and Virginia legislatures last year. A similar bill introduced in Arkansas last year was defeated. Judy Thurmond, the ACR staff member working on the bill reported that legislation has passed the State Senate, but was rejected by a committee of the House of Representatives and appears to be dead this year.

The Consumer Alliance of Michigan will be using a three point program to fight UPC, according to CAM's president Andy Driscoll. Legislation, a consumer education program, and a consumer survey are the three major aspects of their program.

A bill will soon be introduced by Congressman John Hertel which CAM expects to support.

Secondly, CAM will be sponsoring a consumer education program. By making use of leaflets, speakers, information packets and the media, CAM hopes to inform Michigan consumers of the threat of effective, economical shopping posed by UPC.

Finally according to Driscoll, CAM will be conducting a consumer survey to be used for "statistical power" in fighting UPC.

Betty Schimling and Ken Bostock of the Washington Committee on Consumer Interests have been working in coordination with the local retail clerks to pass Senate Bill 2656. The legislation has reached the floor of the Senate there. Consumers are fighting an amendment to allow stores to provide each customer with grease pencils as a legal option.

In New Jersey, the state legislature has stopped two bills that would have maintained prices on packages. However, the Consumer's League of New Jersey has marked success in fighting UPC, especially through Food Marketing Committees. According to president Ricki Stochaj, these are committees consisting of Consumer League members interested in nutrition, price information and other aspects of the food industry, currently using UPC as a focal point. In a five session workshop dealing with topics such as package dating, advertising and labeling, committee members learn about various methods available for fighting UPC such as letter writing, complaining to store managers and keeping other consumers in their communities informed and involved in UPC activities.

Consumer League of New Jersey has also had good press coverage, says Ms. Stochaj. She has been a guest on a half hour radio show hosted by Barry Farber along with Sidney Margolius, a nationally syndicated consumer columnist; a

O'Reilly Joins CFA



Attorney Kathleen F. O'Reilly joined the staff of CFA as legislative director on March 3. In her new position, she will oversee CFA's legislative activities before Congress, regulatory agencies and the courts.

A graduate of Marygrove College in Detroit, she received a J.D. degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1971. While there, she was the winner of the "Edward Douglass White Public Law Argument" Competition for Best Advocate. While a law student, she also worked for the U.S. Attorney's office, in the District of Columbia, the Georgetown Legal Intern Program and D.C. PIRG, where she prepared a state-by-state comparative study of corporate property taxation.

She is currently a member of the bars of District of Columbia, and of the State of Michigan.

Ms. O'Reilly has been an associate attorney with the Washington Law firm of Pledger and Mahoney since 1971. She did civil litigation before the D.C. courts in several areas including negligence, product liability, contract disputes and landlord/tenant cases. As legal counsel to several associations, she worked with NO-Fault Automobile Insurance, the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and the Federal Reserve Board.

Ms. O'Reilly is vice chairman of the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, a member of the Washington Liaison Committee of the American Bar Association, and a member of the D.C. Bar Association.

representative from Kraft Foods and a representative from Shop-Rite stores.

Ms. Stochaj feels Consumer's League of New Jersey's success is evident in the failure of one food chain to keep up with their announced schedule for converting stores to UPC. Instead of converting approximately two stores a month, as was originally planned, only the two original experimental stores are using UPC.

Jim Boyle of the Texas Consumers Association has been working on a combination bill instituting unit pricing, prohibiting repricing and requiring individual packaged items to be priced. House Bill 933 will come up for a public hearing at the end of March, and quite a bit of opposition from national retailers such as Safeway is anticipated.

A price marking bill is in committee in Oregon's legislature, while bills are also expected to be introduced soon in New York and Wisconsin. The major part of this gathering spring offensive, however, are ongoing efforts by the Maryland Citizen Consumer Council and San Francisco Consumer Action.

In Maryland, Ellen Haas and the Maryland Citizen's Consumer Council (MCCC) celebrated a major legislative victory recently when their price-marking bill passed the State House of Delegates by a 2 to 1 margin. They have been fighting a strong organized industry lobbying effort, led by Giant Foods and other major Maryland food chains. Now that the bill is in the Maryland Senate, Ms. Haas expects "More pressure than ever" from that quarter.

Other activities undertaken by MCCC are highlighted by a continuing leafletting campaign at the Severna Park Giant Store which instituted the UPC system earlier this year. This effort has provided the group with a great deal of media

coverage. They have used the issue as a membership building tool, and their growth has helped them to mount an effective lobbying campaign. Consumer co-ordinators for the group have now been established throughout the state. Because of the success of MCCC's efforts, they have been inundated with request for information from local groups and individuals throughout the nation.

In California, San Francisco Consumer Action (SFCA) has continued their picket of a local Lucky Store equipped with UPC. The East Bay chapter of the group organized the first of these demonstration on January 29 of this year. Three thousand irate consumers signed a petition threatening to boycott the store if prices are not returned to packages. A coalition of students, community people and retail clerks is working on the drive. The consumers who signed the petitions are being asked to return cards with a printed message addressed to the store manager demanding the return of price marking. The signers are also being asked for contributions to support further Bay area anti-UPC activity.

A preliminary sample of planned SFCA questionnaire, found 92% of those questioned preferred item-pricing, even if it meant slightly higher prices.

In the legislature, a House bill in California was recently killed in committee. Over 80 SFCA members attended the hearing in order to testify, along with representatives of nine other California public interest groups. The hearing's chairman gave all of these groups only three minutes to state their views. Catherine Johnson of SFCA termed this "an incredible radicalizing experience" and "very depressing". A similar Senate bill has yet to be considered.

In California, the city of San Francisco has come the farthest toward implementing appropriate measures. With the bill in committee working and enforcement procedures are still under discussion. SFCA's plans for the future include media coverage to help keep price marking a hot consumer issue in the minds of California consumers.

Help Wanted

Job Opportunity

Arkansas Consumer Research is looking for a full-time executive director to begin work in May or June 1975. ACR is a statewide consumer advocacy organization supported by membership dues and contributions. It presently has a staff of eight.

ACR's current projects include opposition to rate increases sought by utility companies, a project to reform supermarket practices and form a coalition with farmers in the state, efforts to allow advertising of liquor prices in Arkansas and lobbying on prescription drug legislation, the UPC, and a state office of consumer advocacy.

The job requires someone who is capable of taking an already established and effective consumer group in a Southern rural state and turning it into an organization with considerable power in the community. Salary is not large, but sufficient to live on. For further information, write Fred Cowan, Executive Director, Arkansas Consumer Research, 1919 W. 7th St., Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 or call 501/374-2394.

Summer Solar Study

Nethers community School, an intentional community and Summerhillian boarding school two hours south of Washington D.C., is conducting a college level program of work and study this summer in solar energy.

The summer's work project is to build the solar collector to the solar house which the community started to build with its own labor four summers ago. The house design was suggested by Ken Kern, author of *Owner Built Home*; the heating system was drawn up by Wynn Solomon, an engineer of a sister intentional community.

In addition to the work project of building the collector, the summer program is offering classes, field trips and week-end seminars. The week-end seminars will focus on specific applications of solar energy such as learning the principles of, and building a solar hot water heater, or a solar stove. Visiting lecturers include George Szego, Sam Love, Wilson Clark, Karl Hess, June Allen, C.J. Swet, and Santosh Kumar.

If you'd like to know more about the summer program write to Summer Solar Project, Box 41, Woodville, Va. 22749.

State And Local Reports by Nick Apostola, Jeff Howard and Jim O'Donoghue

This month's State and Local Reports uses a new and Different format. In order to cover more of the many consumer projects happening all over the country, the amount of coverage given to each individual item has been reduced. Where details are crucial to the continuity of a particular story, we have let them stand. However, we hope that by covering many more items than before, the Reports will give an increasingly comprehensive view of the state or local activity. Also, by covering more projects we hope to give groups new ideas of things that can be done in their own areas. Let us know what you think of this new format and please send any material you think could be useful. Included with each item is an address to write to for more information. If you don't receive a response from them, write us for additional information.

Alaska

• The Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) has been working on the task of organizing citizens statewide since their inception five months ago in Anchorage.

Arkansas

• Faced by public pressure and a law suit filed in Federal District Court by Arkansas Consumer Research, the Association of Retired Persons, and two citizens—Kathylene Rosby and Mrs. Lena Hoffman—the State Pharmacy Board repealed a regulation that had made it illegal to advertise the price of prescription drugs. One possible roadblock which remains to a truly competitive market is that advertising fixed name prices is still considered unethical by the Arkansas Pharmaceutical Association.

Arkansas Consumer REsearch
1919 W. 7th St.
Little Rock, Ark. 72202

California

• Proclaiming that 'the right to have nutritious, sustaining food is basic to all human beings', San Francisco Consumer Action announced the formulation of its *Food Task Force* at a press conference in Washington, D.C., on January 29. The Food Task Force will be a permanent adjunct to SFCA and will dedicate itself to researching and informing consumers about the development of the food monopolies, organizing consumers to negotiate with the food industry, enacting reform legislation and initiating reform law suits. Staff members for the Task Force are Cathy Johnson, director and Al Krebs.

SFCA
312 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Connecticut

• Marc Caplan, Director of the Connecticut Citizens Action Group has recently been appointed to the Connecticut Transit Authority. He has urged his colleagues on the Authority to endorse legislative proposals which would take a hard look at Connecticut's ongoing superhighway plans, endorse the development of mass transportation and point out the huge debt Connecticut already has run up building highways.

District of Columbia

• DC PIRG is compiling information on 47 area banks to be published as a handbook that will enable consumers to make more intelligent banking decisions.

Louisiana

• An interesting piece of evidence about occupational licensing and its effects on fraud has been turned up by the Louisiana Consumer League. They ran a comparative study of TV repair licensing systems in California, which has a system of registration and a Bureau of Repair Services which investigates fraud; the District of Columbia, which has no controls; and Louisiana, which

has a mandatory licensing system. With twenty identical repairs made in each of the three areas, they found 'significantly fewer' instances of fraud in California, and no difference between instances in D.C. and Louisiana. Despite the fact that wage rates are higher in California, prices for repairs were 20% higher in Louisiana.

• A *successful organizing tactic* instituted by LCL is to have weekly brown bag luncheon meetings with people working on their current project. These meetings allow for maximum use of the lunch hour and affords an opportunity for people to attend on a regular basis. Although such sessions are often brief, if held frequently they can become an excellent forum to establish organizational goals and define specific responsibilities for individual members.

Massachusetts

• MassPIRG students, supervised by Ken Dreyfus and Norman Stein of Boston, are collecting referendum signatures on a petition calling for the creation of a Massachusetts Public Authority, working in co-ordination with the staff of Congressman Michael Harrington (D-Mass), the Massachusetts League of Older Americans and other consumer groups, 95,000 signatures have been collected. This puts the measure before the legislature, which has until May 7th to act upon it. It defeated by the legislature the group will need to collect 10,000 additional signatures to place the proposal on the November 1976 ballot as a binding referendum.

Nevada

• The Consumer League of Nevada has announced its 1975 legislative priorities. They include abolition of the state dairy commission; raising the jurisdictional limits in Small Claims Court to \$1000 while barring attorneys from practicing in these courts; a prescription drug freshness act; mandatory price posting of current prices for the 100 most commonly prescribed prescription drugs; passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; a ban on non-returnable bottles; and the repeal of the sales tax on retail food sales.

Consumer League of Nevada
1408 E. Owens Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89030

North Carolina

• With the repeal of sales tax on food and attendant tax reform shaping up as a major controversy in the 1975 General Assembly, the NC Consumers Council has listed food tax repeal as first among its legislative goals and has joined other state-wide organizations in working for a 1975 tax-reform package.

NC Consumers Council
P.O. Box 6434
Raleigh, N.C. 27607

Ohio

• The Consumer Action Movement (CAM) has released the results of a survey of food prices at 51 Cleveland area supermarkets. The survey uncovered the fact that the prices of a wide variety of products have risen considerably faster than the food component of the Consumer Price Index. CAM has urged the Federal government to investigate these price hikes and take appropriate action.

Consumer Action Movement
13540 Superior
East Cleveland, OH 44102

Pennsylvania

• A conference bringing together state and local consumer leaders, industry and government representatives, and other individuals to discuss current consumer problems was held March 23-25 at Edinboro State College. Co-sponsors of the conference were the Penn Department of Agriculture, Penn Bureau of Consumer Protection, and the Conference of Consumer Organizations (COCO).

Texas

• A group of Austin women have founded a consumer protection group, the Women's Health Organization, signalling the beginnings of change in attitudes toward the physician-patient relationship.

The group addresses itself to women's medical problems in an attempt to counter the patronizing and sexist treatment many women have received from local obstetricians and gynecologists.

Texas Consumers Assoc.
906 Nueces
Austin, TX 78701

Vermont

• A VPIRG report released February 3rd entitled *An Ounce of Prevention* has proposed a comprehensive health screening program for Vermont's children which will include state assistance to families willing to pay part of this screening and having a total price tag of less than \$200,000 a year.

• VPIRG has been actively pushing a number of bills in the State Legislature. A Campaign financing act, lobbyist disclosure bill, small claims court revisions, lifeline electric rates, and returnable bottles legislation are among the most important of these provisions.

• A pamphlet discussing all the major aspects of the growing nuclear power controversy entitled *Nuclear Power: Is It Worth The Risk?* has been released by VPIRG and will be widely distributed to Vermont legislators and citizens.

VPIRG
26 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05601

Virginia

• A landmark decision awarded last year to the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, Inc., by a 3-judge federal panel has been appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States by the Virginia Pharmacy Board. The Court ruled last March that a regulation prohibiting the advertising of prescription drug prices was unconstitutional.

VCCC
Box 777
Springfield, Va. 22150

West Virginia

• The newly formed West Virginia Citizen's Action Group has released results of a statewide investigation of equal employment opportunity there and they are currently formulating recommendations to help remedy the wide spread sex discrimination they found.

Wisconsin

• A broad-based coalition which has come together in Milwaukee to plan for food day is using the opportunity to begin a food stamp outreach program, encourage the founding of new food co-ops, and attempt to pressure local hospitals and nursing homes to improve their food services. Those involved include the United Farm Workers, Center for Consumer Affairs, Women United for Action, the Milwaukee Health Department, Church World Services (CROP), the Puerto Rican Center, Wisconsin Consumers League, Milwaukee Public Schools, 16th Street Community Health Center, the University of Wisconsin (Waukesha) and the Gordon Park Food Co-op.

Food Day or Wisconsin Consumer League
1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW P.O. Box 1531
Washington, D.C. 20036 Madison, Wisc. 53701

RESOURCES

A most authoritative new source of information on energy and natural resources is *The Elements*, a newsletter published by the Transnational Institute, a program of the Institute for Policy Studies. James Ridgeway, the newsletter's editor, says the purpose of the newsletter is to break the information monopoly of the resource industry. A one-year (11 issues) subscription is available to individuals for \$5 from:

Institute for Policy Studies
1520 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036



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

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