CFA CFAnews
June 1991
Volume 16, No. 4
ISSN #0732-8281

Health and Safety Priorities Announced

Congressional health and safety leaders joined with the Coalition for Consumer Health and Safety at a Capitol Hill news conference in April to announce top priorities for action in 1991 to stem product-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries.

Sen. John Chafee (R-RI), Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), and Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA) explained their congressional health and safety priorities. The coalition of 38 consumer, health, and insurer groups released a report outlining its assessment of Congress' and the federal agencies' 1990 progress and 1991 priorities in the areas of motor vehicle safety, home and product safety, indoor air quality, food safety and nutrition, cigarette consumption, alcohol consumption, and AIDS.

"Last year, after a decade in which little progress was made, Congress and the federal agencies scored significant successes on consumer health and safety issues," said CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck, chairman of the coalition. In particular, he cited landmark legislation to reauthorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission, to reform the nation's nutrition labeling laws, and to provide emergency assistance to cities and states hardest hit by the HIV epidemic.

"But we can't stop here," Brobeck added. "Much more can and must be done to address health and safety threats that have been neglected for too long."

Challenges for the 102nd Congress

Among the issues identified by the coalition as top congressional priorities were:

• passage of tobacco control and health protection legislation similar to that acted on in 1990;

• passage of legislation to provide incentives to states to enact mandatory use laws for safety belts and motorcycle helmets and reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

• increasing the Consumer Product Safety Commission's budget to $50 million, the minimum necessary to ensure an effective product safety program;

• passage of legislation requiring health and safety warnings in alcohol advertisements and strengthened warnings on alcoholic beverage labels;

• passage of comprehensive indoor air quality legislation similar to that passed by the Senate in 1990;

• creation of a mandatory federal seafood inspection program and passage of strong federal pesticide legislation; and

• reauthorization and full funding of the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act passed but not fully funded in 1990.

Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN) (right) looks on as Sen. John Chafee (R-RI) outlines his health and safety priorities for 1991. In the background are (from left to right): Stephen Brobeck of CFA, Steve Moskey of Aetna, Mary Ellen Fise of CFA, and Glenn Soden of Nationwide Insurance Companies.

Federal Agencies Face Full Agenda

The federal agencies, meanwhile, face a similarly full agenda. The following are among the key 1991 priorities identified by the coalition for agency action.

• NHTSA should upgrade the side impact standard to improve head protection, issue a new rollover standard, and improve the crash test program to better reflect the safety benefits of air bags.

• The CPSC should develop a safety standard for four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), prohibit the sale and marketing of ATVs for use by children, place a permanent ban on three-wheeled ATVs, and provide for refunds to consumers who purchased any three-wheeled ATV or a four-wheeled ATV for use by children.

• EPA should continue its research on indoor air pollutant sources and mitigation and control techniques and should develop standardized techniques for measuring different pollutant emission rates.

• FDA should implement the new nutrition labeling requirements as quickly as possible; USDA should apply the same labeling standards to foods it regulates; and FTC should apply those standards to food advertising claims.

• The administration should actively promote, and states and local jurisdictions should pass, the model legislation to address tobacco use by children advocated by Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan.

• Administration officials should step up efforts to implement former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's initiatives against drunk driving and should continue efforts to stop the targeting of youths by alcohol advertisements.

• The White House should lead the federal agencies in implementing the National AIDS Commission recommendation to create a "federal interagency mechanism" to coordinate the federal response to the HIV epidemic and should expand and extend efforts to educate the public about HIV.

"These federal initiatives would prevent thousands of deaths, injuries, and illnesses," Brobeck said.

The report, *Consumer Health and Safety: Progress and Priorities for Congress and the Federal Agencies, 1990-1991,* is available for $10, paid in advance, by writing to the Consumer Federation of America, 1424 16th Street, N.W., Suite 604, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Senate Panel Votes to Reregulate Cable

In May the Senate Commerce Committee voted 16-3 in favor of legislation to reregulate the cable television industry.

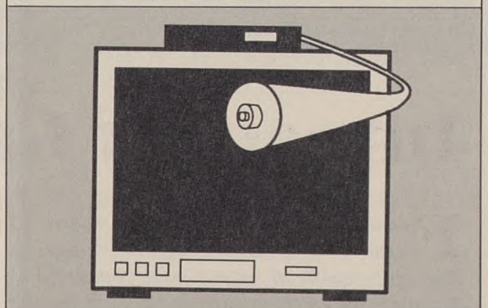
S. 12, the "Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1991," is very similar to legislation which was approved 18-1 by the Commerce Committee last year, but which was killed in the final days of the session by an administration-backed filibuster threat.

It permits rate regulation where cable faces no true competition, prohibits certain anti-competitive business practices, and strengthens consumer service regulation.

The House, which passed cable reregulation legislation last year on a voice vote, is expected to move similar legislation later this year.

The legislation is supported by a broad coalition of consumer groups, including CFA, American Association of Retired Persons, Consumers Union, National Consumers League, and Public Citizen.

In a letter to Commerce Committee members supporting the legislation, four of these groups warned that proposed new regulatory guidelines from the Federal Communications Commission would be inadequate to solve consumers' concerns about poor cable service, high cable costs, and lack of competition in the video marketplace.



The FCC's proposed rules would not cover cable systems in communities with more than six over-the-air signals, leaving systems serving 65 to 80 percent of cable subscribers unregulated. Furthermore, they would regulate only that tier of service that includes retransmission of over-the-air broadcast signals.

"Since cable operators may shift all their popular programming to tiers the FCC cannot regulate, as many cable systems already have done, consumers have no greater protection against double-digit rate hikes under the FCC's proposed new regulations than with no regulation at all," said CFA Legislative Director Gene Kimmelman.

"Although this legislation will not eliminate all concerns about inappropriate cable industry practices, it would protect consumers against unreasonable rates and poor service while promoting increased competition," he added.

Backers of the bill are expected to act quickly to bring the bill to the Senate floor this summer. However, the bill's prospects are clouded by the administration's threat to veto any cable legislation that includes reregulation.

Consumers are urged to write to their senators to request their support for this vital pocketbook legislation.

RTC Funding Approach Adds Billions To Cost

Despite last year's promises that the 102nd Congress would find a way to fund the savings and loan bailout without further burdening the taxpayer with massive longterm debt, Congress approved a $30 billion Resolution Trust Corporation funding bill in March that continues to rely on exorbitantly costly deficit financing.

In so doing, Congress rejected a proposal put forward by Reps. Joseph P. Kennedy (D-MA) and Jim Slattery (D-KS) that would have put the bulk of the savings and loan bailout on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, thus cutting an estimated $120 billion from the longterm cost of this round of the bailout.

"There is no excuse for continuing to fund the RTC under current budgetary/tax approaches when another solution is at hand that could slash the overall costs to the public—slash them by an estimated $120 billion," said CFA Legislative Representative Peggy Miller.

The Kennedy-Slattery proposal would have given the RTC a $30 billion authorization (which Congress would have had to appropriate separately) to keep the agency functioning through the end of the fiscal year while a "pay-as-you-go" plan was being formulated. Future funding requests from the president would have had to include a plan to fund the RTC without adding to the federal deficit.

Consumer groups put forward a similar on-budget funding proposal two years ago, but the House Ways and Means and Banking committees refused to consider the proposal at that time.

The *Stanford Journal of Law and Policy* has estimated that the total cost of the bailout as currently funded could reach $1.369 trillion over 40 years, with $913 billion of that total in interest on borrowed funds.

"The enormity of the costs of the S&L debacle to the taxpayer and consumers continue unabated, and Congress can only reduce these costs by passing the Kennedy-Slattery amendment," Miller wrote in a letter to all House members on the eve of the RTC funding vote.

It took two days of voting on the House floor in mid-March to clear a bill, which contained minor agency reforms and no "pay-as-you-go" provision.

The Senate, meanwhile, rushed a bill through, 69-30, in early March, with Senate Banking Chairman Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (D-MI) helping keep the bill free of amendments by promising an April hearing on RTC management problems that would set the stage for agency reform when the next round of funding hits.

The final bill signed by the president includes increased reporting requirements, direction to speed the sale of assets and address other problems with agency efficiency, extension of the affordable housing program to properties held by thrifts being run by the RTC under conservatorship, and removal of a requirement that the agency get a minimum price for the property.

"It is true that RTC needs to be reformed," Miller said. "But we cannot support passage of a bill with minimalist reforms that does not address the crux of the payment issue—burdening the public with a debt far higher than necessary." Miller added that many of the most pressing problems at the agency were not addressed in the legislation.

The Kennedy-Slattery alternative was defeated 186-237, but it was the only alternative to get the support of a majority of House Democrats. Reps. Kennedy and Slattery have vowed to renew their attempt to put the bailout funding on-budget when the RTC asks for more money in the fall.

"People need to let their elected representatives know that they will not tolerate this irresponsible behavior that loads hundreds of billions of dollars of unnecessary debt on future generations," Miller said.

House Panel Begins Banking Overhaul

Congress' overhaul of the nation's banking system got underway in May, when the House Financial Institutions Subcommittee gave near unanimous approval to a streamlined version of the legislation (H.R. 2094) containing only insurance fund recapitalization and provisions to improve regulatory supervision. The subcommittee then began markup a week later on the full administration bill (H.R. 1505), with its sweeping proposals to deregulate the financial system.

The two-pronged approach was part of a deal worked out by House Banking Committee Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-TX) to assure passage of the legislation's provisions to recapitalize the bank insurance fund (BIF) and provide regulators with strong enforcement powers and early intervention authority, provisions which have strong support in both houses of Congress and in the administration. Proponents of deregulation agreed to support the streamlined approach in return for early markup of the administration's full legislative package.

The bank insurance fund (BIF) has been nearly depleted by the rising number of bank failures in recent years. In an attempt to keep the fund afloat, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has pursued a policy of "forbearance," allowing seriously undercapitalized banks to continue in business despite the longterm safety and soundness threats of such an approach.

As approved by the subcommittee, H.R. 2094 would allow the FDIC to borrow up to $30 billion from the Treasury over the next two or three years to close failing banks. This leaves open for now the question of how that money will be raised, whether in a lump sum paid for by a tax increase, for example, or through a special bank insurance premium.

While far from perfect, this on-budget approach is superior to the funding approach for the Resolution Trust Corporation, which is locked into paying for the bailout through the sale of 30- and 40-year bonds, adding billions of dollars to the longterm cost.

Although many of the provisions supported by consumers were left out of the streamlined bill, consumer groups nonetheless supported its passage.

"The legislation does provide strong supervision tools to the regulators and allows them to move rapidly," said CFA Legislative Representative Peggy Miller. "Furthermore, by leaving out the most harmful provisions of the Treasury proposal—those allowing interstate branch banking, securities and insurance powers, and commercial purchase of banks—it took a strong position to bar such additional deregulatory steps," she said.

CFA's Peggy Miller warned that proposed changes in the banking system would hurt consumers.

As the markup of the administration's bill began, however, the subcommittee appeared determined to give banks more access to securities and insurance powers and to permit some form of interstate branching.

These proposals are strongly opposed by consumer groups because they would "create a risky, consolidated system so rapidly, it would easily bankrupt the Treasury while it allowed financial investors access to insured deposits for high risk, global lending schemes," Miller warned in April testimony before the House Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

The deregulatory proposals, which have been sought for nearly two decades by big banks, have gained momentum this year through a combination of forces, including the active involvement of the president, the successful use of the argument that consolidation of the system is needed to allow our banks to compete globally, and the support of a core group of subcommittee Democrats, including such traditional consumer advocates as Reps. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and Barney Frank (D-MA).

"Fortunately, there are a number of subcommittee members who are still willing to fight for a safe system that serves consumer interests," Miller said, citing, in particular, Reps. Gerald D. Kleczka (D-WI), Jim Leach (R-IA), Kweisi Mfume (D-MD), and Bruce F. Vento (D-MN), as well as Chairman Gonzalez.

In addition to trying to strip the worst provisions, this group of legislators has worked with consumer advocates to try to craft provisions that would minimize the ill effects should Congress insist on moving forward with the restructuring.

Meanwhile, opponents are hoping the full Banking Committee, and perhaps Energy and Commerce, will undo the worst of the damage done in subcommittee.

CFAnews

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CFAnews is published eight times a year. Annual subscription rate is $25 per year.

Design & Typeset by: Design Consultants, Inc.

Impact of Gas Price Hikes Assessed

Families will see their annual gasoline costs rise by an average of at least $83 as a result of recent and projected gas price hikes, according to a CFA report released in May.

"Higher gasoline prices may encourage conservation and reduce air pollution, but they also cost consumers more than pocket change," said CFA Research Director Mark Cooper, author of the study. "The poor and the near poor in particular can ill afford these price hikes," he said.

The report, entitled *Consumer Impacts of Gasoline Price Hikes*, provides a breakdown of the increased cost of higher gasoline prices for all households, for those with different incomes, and for those residing in different areas. These figures were computed by plugging gasoline consumption and price statistics and household expenditure data into a regression equation.

The following are among the report's specific findings.

- Gasoline price hikes affect suburban and rural residents the most, city residents the least. A 10-cent price increase costs suburbanites $89 a year, rural residents $89 a year, and city dwellers $70 a year.
- These price hikes hurt the poor the most and the affluent the least. Even though those with incomes over $75,000 spent twice as much on gasoline in 1988 as those with incomes under $10,000, the poor spent a much higher percentage of their income, about five times more, than did the most affluent.

"What would concern us greatly would be for oil companies to cut back petroleum refining to boost prices," Cooper said. "Many consumers need price stability far more than these companies need increased profits."

FDA Urged to Ban Cosmetic Ingredient

CFA petitioned the Food and Drug Administration in March to halt the sale of cosmetic products containing urocanic acid because of this chemical's potential in sunlight to promote the outgrowth of cancerous skin tumors.

Joining CFA in its petition were Drs. Frances Noonan and Edward DeFabo, research scientists in the Department of Dermatology at the George Washington University Medical Center.

Urocanic acid is a chemical ingredient used in some sunscreen products and skin conditioning lotions. Animal research has shown that urocanic acid, when applied to the skin surface and exposed to sunlight, is converted to a form which suppresses the immune system, thereby allowing the outgrowth of skin tumors.

"Based on our original research, now supported by other laboratories, it is our scientific opinion that any benefit gained by inclusion of urocanic acid in cosmetics is far outweighed by the potential risks," Dr. DeFabo said.

"Ironically, some sunscreen lotions that consumers apply to prevent skin cancer may increase the likelihood of forming cancerous skin tumors," CFA Product Safety Director Mary Ellen Fise explained. "We believe it is important for consumers to discontinue use immediately of sunscreens and skin care lotions containing urocanic acid," she added.

Voluntary reports to FDA by cosmetic manufacturers in 1989 showed that urocanic acid was being used in 15 cosmetic products, including 10 sunscreen preparations, three face, body and hand care preparations, one makeup base, and one foundation. Because reports are voluntary, the actual number of products containing urocanic acid is unknown.

Despite claims by several manufacturers that they had voluntarily discontinued use of the ingredient, the petitioners identified at least nine products containing urocanic acid available on store shelves at the time the petition was filed: Estee Lauder's Sun Face Block for Sensitive Skin, Overnight Pre-Tan Accelerator, Waterworld Sunscreen, and Oil-Free Tanning Formula; Shiseido's Pre-Makeup Cream Base, Facial Moisturizing Lotion, and Facial Nourishing Cream Rich; Clinique's Self-Tanning Formula; and Germaine Monteil's Pre-Tan Conditioner (contains urocan 8).

Urocanic acid has been banned for cosmetic use in Australia, and manufacturers and retailers there were asked to withdraw from stores any products containing the ingredient. This action was taken on advice from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council's Committee on Toxicity. Products containing urocanic acid have also been removed from the shelves in Singapore, in what was apparently a voluntary action by cosmetic manufacturers.

Electric Utility Industry Needs Reform

The institutional structure of the electric utility industry has broken down, and the time has come for Congress to fix it, CFA Research Director Mark Cooper told members of the House Energy and Power Subcommittee at a May hearing.

Cooper cited four reasons why the system "broke down" in the last decade:

- utilities became over-committed to projects that were "way beyond their managerial and financial capabilities," and regulators could not stop them;
- the philosophy of supply-side expansion was undercut by rising costs, "but utilities could not accept and regulators could not enforce the fact that conservation is the least-cost approach to meeting consumer needs;"
- the distribution monopoly and transmission bottleneck remained firmly entrenched, while the economics of generation and transmission ceased to support the monopoly utility model; and
- utilities and federal courts eroded state regulatory authority in an age "when federal regulators had little or no inclination to engage in effective regulation themselves."

"The way to fix the problem has been well-documented before Congress and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) repeatedly over the past decade," Cooper said.

He called on Congress to:

- institutionalize integrated resource planning as the efficiency principle for the industry;
- ensure that the FERC and states have the authority to eliminate transmission bottlenecks as impediments to efficient and procompetitive operations;
- create the conditions for fair competition as the preferred type of transaction in the industry;
- reinforce consumer protection to prevent abuse; and
- open entry into generation to stimulate innovation and competition.

Cooper dismissed the arguments of some utilities that the system does not need fixing. "These are the utilities sitting on the most expensive plants, running the most overbuilt systems, and resisting the efforts to reform planning and acquisition," he said.

"Utilities that have borne the full force of previous procompetitive reform will support more change in order to gain an opportunity to compete," he added. In addition, he said, industrial consumers with significant potential to engage in generation will support reform efforts because they want to bring those supplies to market.

"As long as the rules ensure fair competition with adequate regulatory oversight, the consumer will be better off, and efficient producers will thrive," Cooper said.

Cooper warned against one proposed approach, which would simply repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act. "Precipitous, ill-considered deregulation would be worse than the status quo," he said, adding that "this is the time and place to craft a carefully balanced set of provisions that will achieve real gains for consumers."

A combination of consumers, independent power producers, and utilities will support a cautious, progressive reform that is based on the consumer agenda, he said. "This is the time and this is the place for the proconsumer reform of the electric utility industry to begin," he concluded.

Telephone Advertising Bill Advances

The House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee approved legislation in May to allow consumers to place their telephone numbers off limits to telephone marketers, but the legislation does not go far enough in protecting the privacy of telephone consumers, said CFA Research Director Mark Cooper.

H.R. 1304 would allow individuals and businesses to put their telephone numbers on an electronic database of numbers off limits to telephone marketers. Nonprofit organizations that solicit money and compile mailing lists over the telephone, including political fundraisers, would be exempt.

Currently, the primary technology which allows telephone marketers to compile massive lists of telephone numbers is automatic number identification, which automatically reveals the phone number of callers to many 800- and 900-number service providers.

In April testimony before the subcommittee, Cooper said the bill should be strengthened by requiring that service providers seeking to know a caller's number bear the burden of proving that it is absolutely indispensable to the provision of a socially vital function.

This is consistent with two principles Cooper said should govern consumer privacy policy in the information age. First, he said, "we should not destroy our sense of personal privacy in pursuit of every potential economic opportunity." Second, we should "pass only that information which is absolutely essential to accomplishing a task that is considered indispensable to the functioning of society."

CFA Research Director Mark Cooper urged a House panel to strengthen privacy protections for telephone consumers.

"If a service or business does not absolutely need my personal information, it should not have it, unless I explicitly and consciously want the information transferred. The act of preventing information transfer should not cost me money or time or otherwise impose a burden on me," he explained.

In order for a provider of an 800-number service to know how much it owes the telephone company, it may need some information about the billing characteristics of the call, but it does not need the entire telephone number, he said. Withholding the last four digits is the key to protecting the consumer's privacy, while giving the 800- or 900-number provider the information it needs.

"The policy result is clear," he said. "Rather than passing my number to the companies and then telling them to be good, sound policy dictates that we make available to them only the information that they need for the specific task at hand."

A similar principle applies to Caller ID, he said.

"We are repeatedly told that Caller ID will help clean up the network, to catch the telephone harassers or obscene phone callers," he said. "That social function is important, but must we deny everyone the ability to control their telephone number in order to do so? We think not."

The subcommittee failed to act on legislation (H.R. 1305) that would have required telephone companies that offer Caller ID also to offer per-call blocking. That legislation also stops short of providing adequate consumer protections, Cooper said. It should be strengthened to require that per-line blocking also be available.

In making these decisions, policymakers should "presume in favor of protecting privacy and place the burden on those who would undermine it," Cooper said.

Full committee action on H.R. 1304 and on legislation to improve consumer protections related to 900-number telephone services was expected before the Memorial Day recess.

Among other provisions, the latter bill would protect consumers from having their local phone service disconnected for failure to pay for 900 services, protect long-distance companies from lawsuits for canceling contracts with services that fail to meet certain standards, and require 900 service providers to include a "kill message" at the beginning of each call, alert callers to the passage of time during the call, and refund money to consumers under certain circumstances.

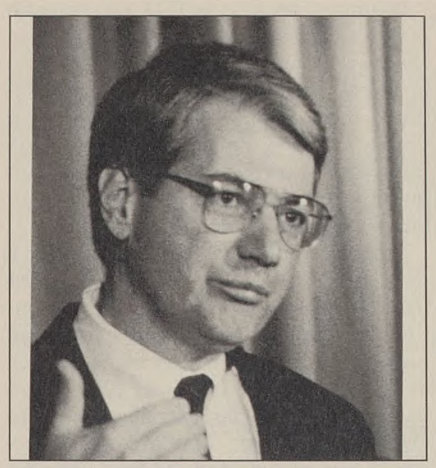
Senate legislation on both issues is expected in the near future.

Rising Loan Rates Cost Consumers Billions

The refusal of lenders to lower interest rates is costing consumers more than $4 billion just on bank loans extended during the past two years, according to a CFA study released in April.

The study, entitled *Trends in Consumer Loan and Savings Rates: The Widening Gap*, examines changes in select bank loan and savings interest rates from April 1989 to March 1991. In early 1989, interest rates such as the federal discount rate and prime rate peaked; since then, they have declined. But certain consumer loan rates fell little or actually increased.

"During a period in which interest rates on consumer savings have dropped sharply, credit card and personal loan rates have risen, and automobile loan rates have declined little," said CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck, author of the study. "The refusal of banking institutions to lower loan rates not only is costing consumers billions of dollars, but also is retarding economic recovery," he said.



CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck released a study in April on the widening gap between consumer loan and savings rates.

Changes in Consumer Loan and Savings Rates

	4/89	3/91	%-Point Change	% Change
6-Month CDs	9.02	6.22	−2.80	−31.0%
MMAs	6.42	5.45	−0.97	−15.1%
30-Year Fixed Mortgages	11.13	9.35	−1.78	−16.0%
Auto Loans	12.50	12.04	−0.46	−3.7%
2-Year Personal Loans	16.94	17.33	+0.39	+2.3%
Credit Cards	18.08	18.88	+0.80	+4.4%

During the two-year period covered by the study, interest rates on six-month CDs declined 2.8 percentage points (31 percent); rates on money market accounts declined 0.97 percentage points (15 percent); and rates on 30-year fixed mortgages declined 1.78 percentage points (16 percent). Yet, the rates on automobile loans fell only 0.46 percentage points (4 percent), while the rates on credit card loans rose 0.80 percentage points (4 percent), and those on personal loans rose 0.39 percentage points (2 percent). In the same period, the prime rate fell by 2.5 percentage points (22 percent).

If credit card rates had declined by just 1.5 percentage points (8 percent), instead of rising by 0.80 percentage points, then, during the two-year period, consumers would have paid $2.8 billion less in credit card interest.

Similarly, if auto loan rates had declined 1.5 percentage points (12 percent), instead of only 0.46 percentage points, borrowers would have eventually paid $1.3 billion less to banks on auto loans made in 1989 and 1990.

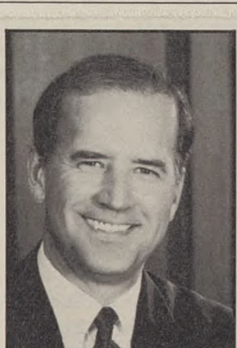
This $4-plus billion, however, does not represent all overcharges to consumer borrowers. Since other lenders, such as finance companies and nonbank credit card issuers, also have failed to lower loan rates, consumers are being overcharged far more than $4 billion by all lenders.

The report identifies several contributing factors. Commercial banks have been under intense pressure to build up reserves and profit levels, yet were faced with more intense competition from other financial services providers.

Furthermore, markets for personal loans and credit cards are relatively price-uncompetitive. Unsecured personal loans are rarely marketed by financial services institutions. Although credit cards are promoted, in the past two years few issuers have advertised low interest rates. Instead, they have increasingly been following the leadership of the money center banks, which typically charge about 20 percent.

These overcharges are levied by banks seeking to increase profit levels and reserves, but they are permitted by the fact that consumers taking out automobile, personal, and credit card loans are less sensitive to interest rates than are mortgage purchasers and corporate borrowers, Brobeck explained.

"Consumers can fight back by telling car dealers they will not purchase cars until loan rates come down, and by refusing to use high-rate credit cards or by paying their balances off in full each month," he said.



Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Rep. William H. Gray, III

Kenneth S. Kovack

Janet Domenitz

Paula Lyons

21st Annual Awards Dinner

The Consumer Federation of America will honor distinguished consumer service at its 21st Annual Awards Dinner Tuesday, June 18. Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE) and Rep. William H. Gray, III (D-PA) will receive the Philip Hart Public Service Awards. Philip Hart Distinguished Consumer Service Awards will be presented to Kenneth S. Kovack, Assistant Director of the United Steelworkers of America, and to Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. MassPIRG Executive Director Janet Domenitz will accept the award. Paula Lyons, Consumer Reporter for ABC-TV's Good Morning America, will receive the Outstanding Consumer Media Service Award.

The awards dinner will be held at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. A 6 p.m. reception will be followed by a buffet dinner at 6:45 p.m. For more information, contact Sheila Meade, CFA Conference Manager.

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