

definitions, it will certainly be helpful to have some definitions that we may have questions on.

Mr. BARR. We would be delighted to supply a glossary of the jargon of the trade.

Mr. STEPHENS. My time is up.

(The material referred to may be found in the appendix, p. 910.)

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. Halpern?

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you. I first want to commend our distinguished witnesses, Secretary Barr, a distinguished, knowledgeable and outstanding public servant who has always contributed to the work of this committee whether on this side of the dais as a member of the committee or on the other side as one of the able representatives of the Treasury Department.

Miss Furness, in her brief affiliation in public service has so distinguished herself most creditably and has won the admiration of so many of her colleagues in our Government. I wish to commend her for her forthright statement and I feel she has contributed greatly to an effective and meaningful consumer credit legislation.

I have many questions, Madam Chairman, but unfortunately we are limited by time and I am sure with your permission and with the consent of the committee that we can submit these questions in writing to the witnesses with the view that their answering be included as part of this testimony.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Yes, I am sure the Secretary will do that.

(The following material was subsequently submitted for the record:)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., August 9, 1967.

HON. JOSEPH W. BARR,
Under Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: During your appearance before the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee on Monday, August 7, time limits did not allow the posing of all the questions pertinent to your testimony on the consumer protection legislation. Hence, I am taking the liberty of submitting the following questions and solicit your responses which, with the permission of the subcommittee, will be entered into the record of the hearings.

1. On page 3, you point to the rising tide of bankruptcies as evidence of how lack of knowledge of credit costs had contributed to the abuse of credit. Do you have specific evidence to suggest that this ignorance of credit costs is directly correlated to these increasing bankruptcies, or might the major factor merely be the expanding availability of credit to consumers, particularly in light of the fact that a large segment of the consuming sector seems relatively insensitive to the level of finance rates?

2. Given indications of lack of consumer sensitivity to finance rates (which, admittedly, may partly be the result of the myriad of chaotic terms on which credit is offered), can you truly foresee, as you suggest on page 4, an upsurge of competitive activity in our free enterprise economy as a result of clearer disclosure of credit terms?

3. Is it true that the annual percentage rate stated on a retail credit transaction would be completely comparable to the annual rate on savings accounts, since interest on savings accounts is generally compounded periodically, and calculated on the lowest balance of the period?

4. In both the Senate bill, and the legislation currently under consideration here, business credit has been exempted from the requirements for business transactions, particularly in the realm of small, family-owned businesses, where the distinction between personal and business transactions may become some-