It also aims at easing racial tensions in Watts and other troubled Negro areas by eradicating a major cause of resentment: the exploitation of the Negroes by unscrupulous whites.

The next sentence describes the actions depicted in the film.

The commodities are generally legitimate, the swindle comes in the conditional sales contracts the buyers are talked into signing.

Attorney General Lynch is then quoted as saying: "We found that the resulting resentments are a significant factor in the chronic hostile feelings in minority group areas."

I have no intention of repeating for this hearing the long and detailed statements of my position that can be found in the previous Senate hearings.

At this point I will desist from the prepared statement in order to entertain discussion of the economic and moral issues involved. I do feel very strongly about the social matter of the connection between consumer abuses and the disturbances that we have seen. I think it puts into focus the importance of the work that your committee has undertaken. The stakes are high, in my judgment, and we must fashion a proper, fair, equitable solution that will treat the financial and business interests fairly but will also immediately start to correct these sources of discontent that have too long been left alone.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Thank you very much, Father McEwen. We appreciate you bringing out this thought. You may have been here when Secretary Weaver started his testimony this morning and he cited the fact also that abuses in the financing of goods have been a partial cause, at least, of some disturbances and riots.

Before we start to question the witnesses, I would like to say to you gentlemen representing the American Bankers Association, as well as to you, Father: you are all reasonable men—you men from the banking business represent one of the most important groups in this country, and Father McEwen is a distinguished educator and economist as well as being a spiritual leader. In coming here to discuss this legislation I am sure you all realize there are ways of finding corrections for abuses that will not hurt legitimate business, but at the same time will stop these unscrupulous practices that we see. I know that you have not closed your eyes to these things. I have sat on committees in the Congress for 15 years and when opposition comes in, it often comes in just to cast aside everything we are trying to do in a piece of legislation—instead of contributing ideas and suggestions on what we can do to make it work. It can work if there is a will to make it work. There is not anybody on this committee or in the entire Congress who wants to hurt legitimate business. I think all of you know that.

But we up here, are in a limited capacity, not having the full knowledge—the working knowledge—of every business that gives credit. We have a general knowledge of its results, of course—the good results and the bad results. All we are trying to do is to find a way to help people understand what they are doing when they are using someone else's money to obtain and enjoy the necessities and pleasures of today when they cannot afford to go out and pay for them outright.

I know that in H.R. 11601 I have introduced a tough bill. I expected everybody in the credit field to be up here trying to cut my throat, and some of that has happened, but I do not care. I know