We are trying to help him. How do we try to help him? We seek some help from Mr. Lefkowitz' office and we use him plenty, because, to be brief, we had another case of getting tools from some outfit. The member never received the tools. It was the same procedure. We found a garnishee on his wages for something like $300.

After enlisting Mr. Lefkowitz' office, I recall that a settlement was made where this member paid approximately $125 to sort of get this garnishee off his back.

I think something should be done about what we call the service of summons, where suddenly you have a judgment against a person who never has an appearance in court or due notice. We find exorbitant charges, refinance charges. Then it's handed over to a collection agency and from there it goes into the Sheriff's office who has to be paid a certain fee.

A case in illustration was made by my colleague, Mike Sampson, about garnishees, and the question was asked if we had trouble and the answer is: Yes, we have a rough time with employers because most of the time when a garnishee is placed on someone's wages, they take a hard attitude and they want to discharge him.

It just so happens we have a union that intervenes, but people who don't have a union representing their rights are at the mercy of some managements who feel they shouldn't have a garnishee. That is one of the reasons we tried and we were successful in having this law enacted, this past January.

Now, we feel in the labor movement and in the interest of all workers and consumers, that there should be definite protection as to stipulated amounts. It should be an open book. A person should know when they buy an article whether it be furniture or a car or borrowing money, they should know exactly how much they are paying in interest, and I think somebody should know when they become delinquent.

I'm not talking about the person who buys on time and says "I'm not going to pay," and unfortunately they, too, are victims of some high-pressure merchants, by salesmen who think they do have credit bureaus where they could investigate this as a chronic delinquent. They should not be extended credit, and a legitimate case where an illness strikes at home and they cannot pay their $25 payment, I think there should be a provision as to what happens after they become delinquent and a court case follows as to the charges in relation to, again, increased credit charges, attorney fees, and then the Sheriff's fee.

So that the organization in line with the New York City Central Labor Council and the State AFL-CIO and our council definitely urges that this law be enacted. And I want to thank you very much for your patience.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Panarello. We are grateful to you for that statement. You obviously have substantial contact with these problems and it's very helpful to have your support.

Congressman HALPERN. I, too, want to thank the witness, and I associate myself with the remarks of Mr. Bingham in telling you how pleased we are to have you here and to have the benefit of your views.

Now, various retail witnesses have contended that disclosure of credit terms would create intolerable burdens for commercial and other store employees who would have to figure them out.

Do you feel that, with the various tables and charts that would be provided, store employees would be unable to provide the information required by this legislation?

Mr. PANARELLO. No. We happen to represent retail workers in some very, very large concerns right here in the City of New York and they have a credit department and they have a staff of young ladies or young gentlemen who are trained by charts where within a two-week period, they are skilled enough to work the operation in figuring out what the credit charge is going to be. So I see no question or no burden whatsoever on the operation of a business.

Congressman HALPERN. There is no problem that you think cannot be resolved?

Mr. PANARELLO. Right.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Panarello.

Our next witness is Mr. Frank Rubel, Executive Secretary and General Counsel of the New York State Credit Union.

STATEMENT OF FRANK RUBEL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NEW YORK STATE CREDIT UNION LEAGUE

Mr. RUBEL. Gentlemen, I have been in the credit union movement for 51 years, and practicing law for a longer period than that.