

Mr. SISK. You have at the present time no additional supplements to this?

Mrs. SINATRA. No, sir. The State of Washington is included in there.

Mr. SISK. We have made this a part of the record.

Mr. Rabinowitch, the committee will be glad to hear from you now.

Mr. RABINOWITCH. To save the committee time, I am only going to review part of the prepared statement.

I would like to set forth at this particular time that while I am here as a representative of the American Association of Credit Counselors, our position has been and will continue to be that we will never at any time take any position to defend any of the abuses ever perpetrated on a consumer.

You heard today testimony and statements regarding the situation in Maryland and in Washington, D.C., where indictments have been brought and people convicted.

I would like to take full credit on the question of our association being instrumental in initiating these proceedings. Our association has attempted through the Post Office Department, through the Federal Trade Commission, to establish various rules and guidelines to prevent these abuses. You have heard that the state of Rhode Island has eliminated this type of activity. This is true. But if you are also aware, it has opened up an avenue of complete fraud and deceit simply by doing it by mail.

Our position as an association has been very simple: Regulation and very tight, stringent regulation.

I might also say we have heard comments of the American Bar Association and their position.

The act we established in California in 1957 was written in conjunction, with assistance of the California State Bar Association. Amendments and reading the bill will indicate their amendments and what they requested.

It is extremely delightful on my part to have incorporated as part of the testimony and part of the statement—and I would like to take this opportunity to read it—a copy of a wire I sent dated September 2, 1957 to the Better Business Bureaus throughout California. In that I questioned, "From your records, can you advise the number of unsatisfied complaints against licensed proraters in your area since 1957 legislation?"

Next question "Any indications of consumer dissatisfaction, any comment comparing problems prior to legislation and today the reason for query is legislative hearing re proposed regulatory act."

The answers, including the Better Business Bureaus of San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Stockton, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Mateo and Bakersfield, were all unanimous that there was not a problem since 1957 in the State of California.

I would like to read a quote from the Better Business Bureau of Sacramento. Fortunately there was an individual who had just taken charge and in his letter, which is attached to my statement, it says this:

"Our files here on two such proraters operating in this area are client free. However, the files do not go as far back as the information in '57 when you advised legislation was enacted in this field. Therefore, I