tion as I have been discussing to be made public? Should your committee ask the Federal agencies why they are not making this information public in line with the expressed conviction of two Presidents that the consumer has a right to be informed? Should your committee supplement your 1961 report on "Consumer Protection Activities of Federal Departments and Agencies" with another that lists product information now available, being obtained, or capable of being obtained with existing staff, expertise, and facilities that would be of benefit to consumers if made public in suitable form?

There is precedent in the activities of other nations for the government to accept responsibility for getting information to the consumer about products and services not otherwise available.

The Scandinavian countries publish brand name information based on tests in government laboratories. Many European countries require prior approval of a production safety before it may be marketed.

England's Consumer Council is nearing completion of its interesting Tel-Tag program to inform consumers about the important properties of a product by means of a label on the product.

The International Standards Organization (ISO), and the IEC, (International Electrotechnical Commission) have undertaken a broad program dealing with consumer goods.

There is a new and growing concern about the problems of the consumer. I hope our Government can find a way to increase its concern and I hope these comments have contributed a little toward making that possible.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Your full statement together with the appendix will be printed at this point in the record.

(The information referred to above follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MORRIS KAPLAN, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, CONSUMERS UNION

My name is Morris Kaplan. I am technical director of Consumers Union of the United States, a nonprofit membership organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1936. We publish the monthly magazine, Consumer Reports, and have a circulation approaching one and a quarter million copies per month. Our purposes are "to provide consumers with information and counsel on consumer goods and services * * * to give information and assistance on all matters relating to the expenditure of the family income * * * and to initiate and to cooperate with individual and group efforts seeking to create and maintain decent living standards."

I am grateful to the committee for the opportunity you have offered me to present my views on the desirability of making available to the American consumer product information in the possession of the Federal Government. So that you may place these views in proper perspective, it may help you to know that I have been technical director at Consumers Union since 1946; that before that I spent 16 years in the Federal civil service doing research for the Navy Department and administering and working in laboratories of the Bureau of Customs, Alcohol Tax Unit and, happily, in the "dear, dead days beyond recall," the Bureau of Prohibition. One consequence of these associations was contact with the work of a number of Government organizations, both directly and through their publications.

It would seem that 5 years after President Kennedy's consumer message to Congress it would hardly be necessary to argue the consumer's need for information. It is true that some progress has been made to guarantee the consumer's right "to be protected against the marketing of goods hazardous to health or life." But more, much more, remains to be done. The market still has many hazardous electrical and mechanical products against which the consumer has no protection.

It is also true that some advances have been made in giving the consumer "the facts he needs to make an informed choice"—the Government Printing Office's