

but the Public Health Service was concerned and interested and consulted in this matter.

Mr. WYDLER. Are we talking about radiation from the set?

Mr. KAPLAN. Yes. I assumed that is what you were referring to. It has been in the news during the last month or so and a number of Congressmen have been very upset. What upsets me about the whole situation is not the particular hazard, which was very minor, but the fact that such a hazard could in fact occur in products that left the plant.

The radiation problems with television sets have been known for many years. The Federal Communications Commission has set standards and limits on this. Almost every set—in fact every set we have tested with the exception of General Electric's, conformed with these requirements.

I wonder, and I guess we are all human and this could happen, I wonder how it would happen in a matter of this sort that a set designed in a company as large and as reputable as General Electric could get past the inspectors, the testers, the people whose responsibility it would be to review to see that all such matters were taken care of.

Mr. WYDLER. This is most interesting to me because I happen to have a General Electric color television set and I happen to have a dog whose favorite sleeping place is underneath the set.

Mr. KAPLAN. I must add at once that it applies to a limited number of specified sets, sets that were manufactured—I don't remember the details. I think up to—well, from January to June of 1967, but I am not quite sure that that is the precise date. There is a limited period during which these sets were produced.

Mr. WYDLER. My set is 3 or 4 years old.

Mr. KAPLAN. I think you have nothing to concern yourself with.

Mr. WYDLER. I was worried about the dog. (Laughter.)

Mr. WYDLER. You mentioned earlier that some of the TV sets were lethal weapons. Was this what you were referring to?

Mr. KAPLAN. No. This was not one of the things. I want to make that completely clear. What we are concerned about is that in the course of our testing we found sets which by any reasonable criterion do not meet safety requirements.

They would not meet the Underwriters Laboratories requirements for safety. What I mean by that is this: It is possible in the course of the normal use of this set to touch a portion of it and if, at the same time, you are touching any kind of ground—by ground I mean a metal radiator, a register of some sort, water pipe of some sort if you are touching that portion of the set and a ground simultaneously then either the full-line current, the 115 volts would be flowing through you, or a portion of the line current will be flowing through you. The full-line current can kill you. We have found a few such sets. No manufacturer decides to manufacture such a set. He is not in the market of killing people.

We think this most often occurs as a result of an accident, a blob of solder falls in the wrong place, a wire which is not properly dressed touches something that it was not designed to touch.

When this occurs, some parts of the set become electrically live and we who buy our products in the open market in the same way as you buy them, we walk into a store and pick it up and have it delivered, not to Consumers Union but to a shopper's home who then delivers it