

to the Consumers Union. We have found a number of such products, not only television sets but the list which Congressman Rosenthal was referring to which present this kind of hazard.

Mr. WYDLER. Just so I have it clear in my mind, when you say someplace you might touch, do you mean someplace in the front of the set?

Mr. KAPLAN. It could be in the front or back of the set, an exposed area.

For instance, some sets are so designed that the knobs come off without any trouble and if you have children you will know that this is not an uncommon phenomenon. When the knobs come off, the touching of the knob, the metal shaft, may be such a place.

A properly designed set keeps that knob properly insulated. An improperly designed set or carelessly put together set will sometimes make that knob electrically live.

What concerns me is not that an occasional accident occurs in the factory which will permit such a set to get out, but that the manufacturer doesn't routinely institute a procedure which would check every single set before it leaves the factory to insure that no such accident has occurred. It is possible to do that at almost no cost, completely automatically. A big bulb can go on or a great big bell can go on or the set can automatically be pushed off the assembly line if it has any such current leakage. I am talking about lethal hazards.

In addition to that, it is a much more common phenomenon, and here producers very often design this into the set, to produce shock generating equipment, equipment which will produce a shock. I am not now referring to a tingle, I am referring to a quite substantial shock.

Mr. WYDLER. I have bought some of those.

Mr. KAPLAN. Anybody who wants to subject himself to 3 milliamperes of current will realize what I am talking about. He will never buy another such set again.

As I said yesterday to the Electronics Industry Association, perhaps even if one of those fellows bought one of these sets he would start to scream to his legislators that there ought to be a law to prevent such a set being on the market. In European countries, there is.

Mr. WYDLER. We are discussing here the possibility of turning over this Government information to consumers generally.

You, for instance, in your testimony gave us these examples of the different ratings that the Government has made on hearing aids and how they have rated them and so forth. It is all very interesting, but the point is, it is not really of too much use to consumers without some types of cost information, is it?

For example, it might not be very significant to find out that one hearing aid is somewhat better than another if you knew that one cost twice as much as the other. That would certainly be practically an indispensable part of the rating information, wouldn't it?

Mr. KAPLAN. Let me make this clear: Whenever I discuss this kind of problem, the first reaction is everything is fine. The consumer doesn't really need this information.

The second reaction is he needs much more than you can give him. What I am saying is I think that the integration of price and quality and service and all of the other things that a consumer buys when he buys a product would be ideal. But short of the ideal, taking existing