

subjected to this kind of very stringent and quite good regulation on safety didn't seem feasible to me. Yet it was possible.

So I assume if it is possible to do it in the auto industry with whatever big pressures they were able to exert on their legislators and others, and this auto industry, as I understand it, constitutes a seventh of our gross national product, it should be possible to do it in the food industry, the television industry, the appliance industry and many, many other areas provided it is done fairly providing it meets the needs of the people.

Mr. WYDLER. Thank you.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Myers?

Mr. MYERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Kaplan, one advantage to going last is most of your questions get answered, but one thing I arrived at, I had pressure at our house for a color TV set. You provide me with more amplification so I guess I will talk my family out of it now.

I have been quite interested also in this Consumers Union and Consumer Reports. Did I understand you, you just go out and purchase a line item from some store someplace?

Mr. KAPLAN. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. How could you decide, do you have a board or do you yourself decide how you select these?

Mr. KAPLAN. You mean which product shall we undertake to evaluate? We have a committee in the organization called our operations committee that meets quite regularly and decides what program we shall engage in. We test some 60 or 70 such types of products every year.

Mr. MYERS. Does your income come all from the sale of this Consumer Reports?

Mr. KAPLAN. Solely from the sale of our publications. Mostly Consumer Reports. Occasionally we publish a small booklet or book.

Mr. MYERS. A Federal agency or someone else may not employ you, then, to do research for them? Has this ever happened?

Mr. KAPLAN. We have received requests from a number of Federal agencies to do this kind of work from time to time. Generally we have turned them down. On rare occasions we have offered our services free of charge because we are a public service organization to help a particular agency where we had a particular expertise and where the amount and time, amount of effort and time involved was not excessive.

Our big problem is that we are not prepared to undertake a grant program and expand our facilities to do this. At least we haven't been up until now. So most of our work is done in terms of our own understanding of consumer needs. That takes up a great deal of time and effort.

But there have been recent proposals. As you know, Donald Turner has proposed that perhaps the Government ought to be interested either in supporting Consumers Union with grants of money so it could improve its product testing and disseminate far more widely and more broadly or perhaps the Government itself ought to set up a similar organization.

We have viewed such proposals with interest, but nobody has really made us a concrete offer. I am not quite sure how our board of directors would react to this. Our board of directors are elected non-paid officials. Elected by the membership. Anybody who joins the organization has the right to be a member.