

large body of material that the Government buys that is of direct interest to consumers. It is identical. I use as an example hearing aids and tires and batteries.

Now, it is true the Government may buy truck tires and specialized kinds of tires. That information need not be made available. But the Government also buys ordinary automobile tires of the kind you use on your car. That information should be available. Why not? It knows which tires are better than which. Or, let us put it another way, more simply. It knows the characteristics of certain kinds of tires. It knows some tires will have tread wear twice that of another. That information is useful.

It knows that some tires are safe and others are less safe, or safe under certain conditions of use. If you have high-speed driving, perhaps one tire is better than another. That information properly qualified should be made available for people to use in the same way the Government uses it.

Mr. MYERS. I don't know anything about tires except that they go flat once in a while, but I am sure there are a lot of differences in tires. Now, a tire they will use at the Indianapolis 500 is fine out there at 100 or 200 miles an hour, but it wouldn't necessarily be good for an Army truck operating in different climates. There is so much difference. How will you arrive at all this?

Mr. KAPLAN. Apparently I haven't made myself clear. Let me try again. The Government buys tires, let's say, for the Indianapolis Raceway or for military trucks. It also buys tires for automobiles to be used around the District and to be used in New York and Oklahoma somewhere.

Mr. MYERS. At turnpike speeds?

Mr. KAPLAN. Ordinary cars to be used for delivering mail, carrying officials from one place to another, to be used in any kind of ordinary Government business. Those uses are not very different from my uses and yours. The requirements of those tires are identical to the requirements you would have for a tire. In fact, we use them in our tests as precise examples of what we think consumers should have in tires. When the Government buys tires for such uses, and they have the information as to the characteristics of those tires, it is my view that that information specified as to the kind of use should be made available.

Mr. MYERS. What worries me is the responsibility of accuracy. What time were you invited to the meeting this morning?

Mr. KAPLAN. Ten o'clock.

Mr. MYERS. I am on the committee and the Government agency, the committee sent by notice for 10:30. These are one of the things that worries me about the Government doing anything in this area. We are not too accurate.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. You know we ought to have the record straight. When were these notices sent out?

Mr. BARASH. Last Friday.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. They were sent last Friday.

Mr. MYERS. At 10:30 a.m., this worries me.

Mr. KAPLAN. I make only this point: We can all make mistakes and if we were concerned about the possibility that every action is fraught with the possibility of making a mistake, we would be paralyzed. The fact is that in every single day of our lives we make deci-