

possibly can. Nobody can ever accuse us of not doing the best job one can under these circumstances even though we have made mistakes on occasion.

Mr. MYERS. One more question. Do you think the Government should, if we experience a problem, say, with a particular radio of RCA Corp. or XYZ Corp. or any other that the Federal Government should say "This is not a good product," or do you think we should say, "Well, these are the requirements we have learned to be best. A nine-transistor radio is better than a six," for instance.

Mr. KAPLAN. I would say two things. If it is possible to generalize, and in certain areas it is possible, then the Government should do so. The one you gave is not a good example. A nine-transistor radio is not better than a six. The thing to say is precisely that. Don't buy on the basis of the number of transistors. Don't buy on the basis of size. These are things you can say on the basis of a great deal of experience and anybody who has tested radios—and if the GSA buys radios its testers know this and can verify it.

But there are certain other areas where it is possible to generalize. You can say certain things about the characteristics of an AM radio as opposed to FM. I would say that much and where I could not say any more, that would be helpful. I would go beyond that. If I knew that a particular RCA set or GE set or whatever had a certain deficiency, I would report that fact.

Mr. MYERS. By brand name?

Mr. KAPLAN. I would report the fact. I would say if there is a routine mechanism for doing it, if it is a fair procedure, if you are not seeking out RCA and the system is such that anybody's brand has an equal opportunity of being reported that way, then I see no reason why you should not say it. I again refer to the VA hearing aids as an example of a fair procedure, all the hearing aids are tested, all subjected to the same procedures, they are all subject to the same degree of competence of the Bureau of Standards. What the findings are should be reported. If one turns out to be an electrical hazard or if one turns out to be a hearing aid that would not last more than a week or if one turns out to be completely unsuitable on clinical and medical grounds, then that fact, along with the fact that others do meet the requirements, should be reported.

Next week or next month that producer is going to change his product to the point where it now meets the requirements or else he will go out of business. In either case, the general public welfare has been well served. Either he has improved his product or has gone out of business. I submit this is precisely the way things should work. They cannot work that way unless the consumer has the facts. If he does not have the facts, he will buy that very poor hearing aid because he does not know any better.

Mr. MYERS. Thank you.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you very much, Mr. Kaplan.

Our next witness is Commissioner H. A. Abersfeller. Thank you very much for coming here. We appreciate the opportunity to have you appear before the committee. I believe you have a prepared statement and we would appreciate it if you went right ahead.