

Mr. ROSENTHAL. That fact is contained in the final report of the Interdepartmental Study Group for Consumer Standards, dated October 27, 1965.

What distresses me particularly is that you probably have more information useful to consumers than anyone else and yet you are the only agency that doesn't seem to have the thrust or the spirit of trying to be of some use to the consumer. I concede that is not your main mission, but as Mr. Kaplan said, there is a spin-off of information available from the work you do that with virtually no cost and only a modest effort could be made available to the general public. Isn't there some way we could start to do that?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Mr. Chairman, there very definitely is. This gets to the heart of the point we are talking about. This is setting forth for the GSA such a program which is not now a part of our program. The types of things you talk about certainly are well within the realm of accomplishment. Especially by assembling these QPL's and making them available to consumers in a bound volume of some kind. This takes money and we are not prepared to handle it. If we have the mandate from the Congress to get into this kind of action and are provided with the necessary resources, yes, sir, it can be done.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me take the area of safety. I am told that in your specifications for electrical appliances, coffeemakers, that you insist the specification require an elastic electrical cord, the kind that pulls back between the socket and appliance. It prevents a dangling 3 or 4 feet of electric cord. The kind of thing youngsters would pull at if the cord were hanging over the kitchen table.

Why can't we make that important information available to the consumer so he could look for that kind of cord when he buys an electric percolator?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I don't know that we do that on all of our electrical appliances.

Mr. TRAVIS. There is a standard that applies to all the cords for the appliances. The trend has been toward the retractable type. This doesn't mean there won't be applications for the nonretractable type depending upon the location of the device and its relationship to the outlet in the wall, for example.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. If the Federal Government without children worries about that, the American housewife should be especially worried about it and she should know that the Federal Government is so concerned that they won't buy anything without a retractable cord and maybe that is a good example for her to follow.

If that information were made available to the public, you would be rendering a service based on information you now have and with little extra cost of any kind.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. In that particular instance and I am not knowledgeable of the background as to why we establish such a standard, but let me say this—I think Mr. Wydler mentioned it earlier—these things don't go unchallenged by the industry. The actions we take have a subtle impact and while this may for some particular reason meet the Federal Government's requirements, I am not prepared to say that straight cords or those without that characteristic are in fact inherently unsafe.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. They may not be inherently unsafe, but the Injury Control Center of the Public Health Service reports that 35,000 per-