

sons were injured last year by pulling cords of electrical appliances. That is a matter of public concern. That is a matter we should all think about.

If you are worried only about industry's reaction to that, we don't have our eye on the ball.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I am not concerned about industry reaction if I am right. I need to have enough research to be certain that we are proving a point.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. One and one make two. Thirty-five thousand persons are injured each year by pulling cords of electrical appliances. GSA doesn't buy anything without a retractable cord and you just look aside and say "we won't tell anybody about it." That doesn't make sense.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Is it true we don't buy anything that doesn't have a retractable cord?

Mr. TRAVIS. I don't have the specifications here.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I don't think that is so, but I will examine it. In any event, I think we would agree that retractable cords as a general thing at least in logic as I analyze it would be better than cords that weren't retractable, but certainly we could examine this further to determine whether this is in fact something that would be helpful to the consumer, again provided we had the resources to apply to that particular aspect.

(Subsequently the following information was received for the record:)

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C., July 21, 1967.

HON. BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL,
Chairman, Special Inquiry on Consumer Representation in the Federal Government, Special Studies Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ROSENTHAL: In the hearings held by your subcommittee on June 27, 1967, inquiries were made as to the policy of the General Services Administration with regard to the procurement of coiled cords on small electrical appliances and wringer-type washing machines. We are pleased to provide information on both of these items for the record.

A review of Federal specifications for small electrical appliances reveals that in no case do we require the use of coiled cords. The specifications require, in general, that the cords must be a minimum of 6 feet long; be of three conductor construction (the third conductor is the grounding conductor); and be equipped with a standard 125-volt, 15-ampere, 3-prong male plug connector. The cord and the connector must comply with the applicable standard of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.

In connection with the use of coiled cords, our examination revealed that this type of cord has never been adopted as standard by the small appliance industry, and its cost is approximately 1½ times that of the standard cord.

As a result of the discussion in the hearings of the requirement that coiled cords be used in coffeemakers purchased by the Government, a detailed analysis was made of Federal Specification GG-C-531b under which coffeemakers are purchased. This specification requires the use of an HSJ flexible heater cord with a minimum length of 3½ feet. The HSJ designation of the cord is an Underwriters' code specifying a cord used with appliances containing heating elements and is insulated specially for that purpose. The term "flexible" means not that the cord is coiled cord but is flexible in contrast to rigid conduit.

With regard to the inquiry on washing machines, Interim Federal Specification 00-W-00860b (GSA-FSS), dated November 10, 1966, covers four types of washing machines; wringer, semiautomatic, automatic, and a combination washer-dryer. Government agencies may requisition any of the types of washing machines covered by the specification which most adequately meet their individual needs.