

that is the only product which will meet our particular peculiar requirements.

Mr. WYDLER. You say about a thousand specifications you have would be of interest to consumers. Yet you only say you have about a hundred of—

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Qualified products lists.

Mr. WYDLER. What are the other 900 items?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. They range all the way from things that would be used in the household like scouring powder, brooms, brushes, mops, detergents, things of that nature where the testing requirements are not prolonged and can be tested in a relatively short period of time.

Mr. WYDLER. Would you have objection to making those 900 public?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. There is no similar information on that. The only information that is available there, and certainly these are available—I underscore this—the information is available to the public in terms of the characteristics which we consider to be important. The consumer has a very difficult, if not impossible, time in my view, as Mr. Kaplan stated, of translating that information, that what he ought to have to what he is going to get from the fellow he deals with.

Mr. WYDLER. He would have to go practically into the supermarket with what you had written down as to what you want in a scouring powder and take the can, and if they happen to have the contents on it, compare the two to see whether this was—

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Unfortunately our terminology isn't that clear to the layman. It is written in rather scientific language and it would take a very learned individual, and with some test equipment, to translate these requirements into what is on the container. In fact, the information is simply not on the container. The information that is in the specification.

For instance, we have one on bananas and oranges, as you mentioned earlier.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. He needs the one on both of those. [Laughter.]

Mr. ABERSFELLER. To give your wife the specifications on those two products, and they might not be written in the complicated language that a highly technical item would be, but we have specifications on fresh fruit and vegetables as we have on very complex items. Again here the consumer is simply made aware of the characteristics to look for if he can translate the characteristics.

I brought with me today a sample of scouring powder. The committee has the specifications, and, gentlemen, in all fairness to you in your eminent knowledge, I defy you to determine by observation that this item complies with the specification.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Could someone polish that specification you have down to laymanlike understanding?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. We have tried desperately to do this but we don't think we can.

Mr. WYDLER. This doesn't have on it what is in it. All I see is the can.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. That's right. It is in compliance with Federal specification so and so. Here is a liquid glass cleaner. Have you ever heard of the brand name? This is what we buy. This meets our requirements as stated in the specification as to what it will be.