

tion of some of their items that this meets Federal spec so and so. There is some assurance to the consumer that at least the Government has decreed that this is the item they are buying.

Now, as you point out, the consumer, if he knew what those characteristics were, may not be interested in that. There are varieties of needs. But again, I think it is important that we do encourage that effort.

We think, in the final analysis, that some kind of either voluntary endorsement of Federal standards or ASTM standards or other specifications which are available—you have the Society of Automotive Engineers standards and specifications, too, that could be relied on, from a certification point of view is the answer. I do not want to sound too discouraging because, as a consumer and Government official, I am dedicated to the proposition that consumers need more information. There is a real question as to how one gets this to them.

For instance, even if we were to do the things the chairman has suggested—binding up these QPL's and putting them in some kind of booklet—how do you then get it in front of the public that this is available on subscription or free or by whatever way we decide to do it? How does everyone in the country who might have a need for this know that they have this available?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Issue a press release.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. This is certainly a way of doing it. This would get to a large segment of the public provided the papers carried the press release.

Mr. Chairman, we have offices in 10 cities throughout the country where we try to help not only the businessman but the consuming public and I think it is common knowledge among those in Government that the Government Printing Office has available a very elaborate index of material which is available to anyone upon subscription, but if you get out in the boondocks and ask anyone if they ever heard of or learned of this, they do not know about it. This is why so often I have heard friends of mine in the Congress relate to me the many requests they get for information, as an example, a pamphlet that seemed to come up more than any other one is "Baby Care," that I understand the Department of Agriculture puts out—so, instead of going to other places, it seemed more convenient to write the Congressman and ask for this kind of information.

It seems to me this breaks down to two problems: One, what information do we have? Certainly, professional people from the consumer's point of view such as Mr. Kaplan could, I think, contribute a great deal to this. What do we have that consumers ought to know? Once having established that, how do you get it out and somehow publicize it so the consumer will be able to acquire it for his use?

Mr. WYDLER. Thank you.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Myers?

Mr. MYERS. I have just a couple of quick questions.

Mr. Abersfeller, in your statement you talk about setting up specifications and you test them and then make recommendations; is that right? How often are the products satisfactory after you have gone through all this procedure? How often are they not satisfactory, I should say?