

Mr. ABERSFELLER. This is the procedure incident to setting up a Federal specification I was referring to.

Upon delivery, of course, each of the products vended to us is tested. Last year, in dollar volume, the rejects amounted to about \$14 million out of a total procurement of around \$600 million.

Mr. MYERS. Not too great a percentage, then?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. We deal with a very wide range of people and we believe this is an essential protective device.

Mr. MYERS. I believe you suggested that your specifications, GSA, would not be the same in very many cases as what the general consumer would need; am I correct in that?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. As I said, I estimated about 1,000. We think, by and large, with some expert and professional modification, about 1,000 would be usable by the consumer.

Mr. MYERS. The antifreeze you were talking about, is this antifreeze used in different climates? Do all types of equipment use the same antifreeze? Does a tank operating in the Arctic use the same type of antifreeze that a jeep would in Fort Benning, Ga?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Presuming antifreeze was needed there; it does, yes.

Mr. MYERS. The same specs?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I would say so.

Mr. MYERS. But then, at the same time, it is possible that if you did release these names—does Prestone or some of these manufacturers make antifreeze for other chainstores, and so forth? That is a danger here.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. And they sell it for less. That is a danger. They also might make it of a lesser quality. I do not know. We have not examined that particular line—

Mr. MYERS. I am sure you do not test all the products that could provide—

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Absolutely not. As Mr. Wydler said before, if this became a practice and did affect the business of the manufacturers, we would be floundering under a tremendous amount of pressure—not only pressure but requests to test.

The unfortunate thing is: Not having the resources to do this makes it extremely difficult to be fair to everyone. This again is why I happen to be dedicated to the proposition that we must do something about this but we ought to be able to fund it and finance it and not do it in bits and pieces.

Mr. MYERS. Every agency would not have the same specification, would it? For example, the retractable cord we spoke of, very few agencies—or none that I know of—hire children, so this would not be applicable here.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. The specification we are talking about does deal with every agency. We are developing Federal specs and agencies do not generally buy things on their own. They come to us for procurement or we procure for them.

Mr. MYERS. You do not buy, then, for the Department of Defense or NASA or people like this, do you?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Yes, we would buy—for instance, in the household appliance area, we buy all the items required by the Federal Government as a total, including Defense, and on the common products we buy the total Government requirement—buy and distribute it.