

CONSUMER INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SPECIAL STUDIES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:15 a.m. in room 2203, Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal presiding.

Present: Representatives Benjamin S. Rosenthal (presiding), John W. Wydler, and John T. Myers.

Also present: Peter Barash, legal assistant, and I. Warren Harrison, legal assistant, committee staff.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The subcommittee will be in order. Today's hearing is a continuation of the hearings of the Special Consumer Inquiry, Special Studies Subcommittee, to determine what Federal agencies can do to better implement their consumer responsibilities.

Today's first witness will be Commissioner Arthur M. Ross, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

Commissioner, I think you have a prepared statement and you may proceed.

Incidentally, I might say we are extremely grateful to you for taking time from a very busy schedule to appear before the subcommittee.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR M. ROSS, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS; ACCOMPANIED BY ARNOLD CHASE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PRICES AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Mr. Ross. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a privilege to participate in this important study by the Special Consumer Inquiry of the Special Studies Subcommittee.

I have been requested to discuss with the Special Consumer Inquiry how Bureau of Labor Statistics data can be of help to consumers and how this information might be more effectively presented and disseminated.

Most consumers need and want help in the form of more information to assist them in their shopping. In order to buy wisely, consumers need objectively determined facts about the comparative prices of the alternative products among which they must choose. Consumers need an appraisal of the current price situation. Which prices are rising? Which are falling? What are today's good buys? When is the best time of the year to buy various items? How much can be