Likewise, the State of California has cooperated through their credit union organization in encouraging and extending the whole concept of developing credit unions in poor communities.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Have you been in communication, for example, with the Department of Commerce as to what they can do to suggest to businessmen that they cooperate with consumer action programs?

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Hollister has been the liaison with the Federal Trade Commission and some other Government departments and I would like for him to respond to that.

Mr. HOLLISTER. I think we would all prefer to have them speak for themselves, Mr. Chairman, but, as far as we know, they are gathering themselves together—we have had several preliminary discussions about this, and the Federal Trade Commission, with one or two of the Commissioners who are interested in this program.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. You make me very confident to hear this. [Laughter.]

Mr. HOLLISTER. The Food and Drug Administration has just announced a renewed interest in this area, to our knowledge.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. One of the reasons for this special inquiry—one of the reasons that Chairman Dawson set up this special inquiry, was to find out: What the Federal Government is doing on behalf of the American consumer and how they are communicating with each other.

Mr. HOLLISTER. Well, one of the primary channels of communications we have set up by mutual agreement with the President's Committee on Consumer Interests, through that Committee. They have no funds, as you know, and they are ideally situated to act as liaison between the Federal agencies, and we have an agreement that they will keep us in contact and act as liaison with these other agencies. They are carrying the burden.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. In other words, you have no direct contact with any Federal agency as to what you are doing with the poor consumer.

Mr. HOLLISTER. Yes, we have.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What is the Department of Commerce doing?

What is the Department of Agriculture doing?

What is the Department of Labor doing?

Mr. HOLLISTER. The Department of Agriculture is distributing about $6 million of OEO funds on small loans and also on loans designated in the act for funding cooperatives. They funded in the first half of 1966 about 190 such cooperatives, most of them being small—some are of substantial size.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Is this a retail-selling cooperative?

Mr. HOLLISTER. Most of these are farm cooperatives in rural areas.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What do they do?

Mr. HOLLISTER. They buy farm equipment for low-income farmers. They provide marketing facilities.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. This has nothing to do with the consumer function.

Mr. HOLLISTER. It has an important indirect relationship, Mr. Chairman. They are funding such things as feeder-pig cooperatives, which, the Department of Agriculture tells us in our conversation with them, is going to be an important means of keeping the price of pork down for all Americans.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. These cooperatives that you are talking about, this $6 million is of direct help to the farmers. You do not want to——