I have, therefore, proposed today, in submitting to the District of Columbia Council my recommended fiscal 1969 budget for Council approval, a new District of Columbia Office of Consumer Affairs. I will do that later today. That budget will contain a request for a new District of Columbia Office of Consumer Affairs, and I would just like to stop for a moment and say, Mr. Chairman, that based on the rate received in 1968 in the budget, I would hope that I could find appropriate funds to establish such an office prior to the approval of the 1969 budget, and I, certainly, would like to call upon you to assist me in this regard, because I certainly would like to see an Office of Consumer Affairs in our District Building.

Senator TYDINGS. I can assure you of my interest in that, Mayor Washington. I am delighted to see in your statement that you are moving, in effect, on your own, rapidly and without waiting for the rather cumbersome legislative processes of this particular session of Congress.

Mr. WASHINGTON. Thank you, sir. I think it is just that important. That was the reason for getting some of the things in. This is very close to me. So I will appreciate your cooperation. We may advance the time by doing it.

This new agency will be placed within the Executive Office of the city government and will continuously be under my personal attention. That is the strength with which I put this recommendation forward.

Mr. Chairman, this move will bring into being for the first time a specific District governmental agency devoted to consumer interests. Its existence will enable my administration to undertake a program of reaching the consumer public, and provide within city hall an agency to which the consumer can turn for help.

I might say that it was just last week that I would have liked to have had such an office. I had a group of housewives walk in with shopping bags full of groceries and other things that they had purchased. It was not simply a matter of food contamination; it was a matter of practices that related to the need for consumer protection. They were honest in their endeavor and serious in purpose. It gave me great resolve to move forward with an Office of Consumer Affairs.

The new Office of Consumer Affairs will make studies to document the areas that are ripe for consumer protection, and the methods by which such protection should be sought; it will conduct educational and informational programs for consumers; it will undertake the efforts needed for coordination and cooperation with the business community, with consumer associations, and with other local and Federal governmental consumer-related agencies.

I view this new proposal as a start in the long-range development of a strong and vital consumer affairs agency within the city government.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few specific notes, one that S. 2589, providing for a District of Columbia Retail Installment Sales Act, includes among its provisions the creation of a District of Columbia Department of Consumer Protection, within which would be established a Consumer Information Service. Such a department, as outlined in the bill, would have much broader authority than the new Consumer Affairs Office that I am now proposing. While I am