

Her back had begun to give her trouble as a result of her sleeping on the floor. We entered the apartment, and we could see the pallet on the floor covered with clean white sheets. The elderly woman explained that she had purchased a bed, a television set, and a chair from a store. For 3 years she had paid \$35 per month for the merchandise. When her daughter became ill, she had to take her three grandchildren to care for. She went to the store, explained her situation and asked that her payments be cut in half. The store said, "No; you pay the full amount, or we repossess." She tried sending the partial payment, but the store would not accept. Several times the store tried to repossess the furniture, but when the grandmother saw the truck outside she refused to let them in. One day a knock came on the door, the grandmother checked the front through the window and saw no truck. She asked who was at the door, but did not really understand what the person said and opened the door anyway. At that moment, a man braced the door open and beckoned for the truck which was parked up the street. Within minutes the company had repossessed all three pieces she had bought from them, even though she had paid more than \$1,200 on the bill, and the store continued to bill her for the unpaid balance.

Thousands of cases like this might give you some idea how badly these bills are needed which would say that a seller cannot repossess and collect a balance and also that a person can only enter your home to repossess as a result of your giving him permission or by court order.

These bills would also prevent the seller from using add-on contracts, which mean that you do not own anything until you have paid for everything.

There is a big problem of consumers who have no legal recourse when the products or services which they purchase from a fly-by-night company are unsatisfactory. Their contract has been sold to a third party, a loan company, which has no responsibility to the buyer. This part of the bill certainly needs to become law, because it eliminates the legal practices which a third-party finance company enjoys now and shifts the risk from the consumer to the finance company, where it belongs.

I have seen hundreds of cases where consumers have been talked into buying merchandise they did not need, could not afford, and did not want by overwhelming, high-pressure salesmen.

Senator TYDINGS. I must apologize for interrupting.

I wonder if you would be kind enough to let me recess the hearings for about 15 or 20 minutes. I have to appear before another committee of which I am a member. I am the leadoff witness there. They are getting started.

What I plan to do is to recess this hearing for some 10, 20, or 30 minutes, and then I will come back. There are many questions that I want to ask you and the others.

Your testimony has been most enlightening up to this point.

If it would not be too inconvenient, I will recess for this short period of time.

(Recess.)

Senator TYDINGS. We will reconvene the hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Business and Commerce of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia on S. 316, S. 2589, S. 2590, and S. 2592,