

buyer is inexperienced and educationally deprived. This points up the need for a Consumer Protection Department which the bills call for the establishment of. Here the consumer could take his complaint, and the Department would be authorized to administer and enforce provisions of all consumer-protection bills.

Because of the education and action programs of the consumer components of the neighborhood development centers, which involve the indigent and educationally deprived, consumers are becoming aware of their being victimized in their marketplace. They are getting good and angry. They want some like of protection, and they are looking to you as lawmakers for that protection.

I can understand why you who are legislators cannot possibly conceive of such consumer abuses as we have mentioned here today. By the very virtue of being who you are and doing what you do, these things could never happen to you. No high-risk salesman or unscrupulous businessman would dare to victimize you, but for some consumers it is an everyday happening, a way of life.

For these consumers I urge you to make these bills law.

I thank you.

Senator TYDINGS. Thank you very much, Mrs. Clark. I think your testimony and that of Mrs. Bryant has been extremely helpful. There is no question in my mind that there are many thousands of tragic examples of just what you have pointed out, of people who are unable to help themselves, who are the victims of fraud, fraudulent procedures, high-pressure sales tactics, and pay hundreds and hundreds of dollars more than they should for material. And under the commercial law, they, the innocent consumers, are deprived of their day in court.

I can assure you that we are going to delve into this deeply and hopefully have legislation in this area early in the second session of this Congress.

We are going to continue hearings next Tuesday, as previously stated, and next Wednesday and perhaps more the week before Christmas and then on into the new year. We are going to have representatives of the offices of the peoples' services testify to help us go over, in detail, the legislation which we have proposed to limit or alleviate the problems which have been illustrated before us today.

I have to get back to the hearing I mentioned earlier. I do thank you for being with us and your helpfulness in this matter.

We will stand in recess until next Tuesday at 10:45 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 10:35 a.m., a recess was taken until 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 1967.)