

Mr. GUNTHER. Mr. Chairman, I do not understand it, and I heard every word of it.

Senator TYDINGS. I guess that your lawyers will have to get a copy of that decision then.

Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Mr. Seymour D. Wolf, on behalf of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington.

We are glad to have you here and will be glad to hear from you now.

**STATEMENT OF SEYMOUR D. WOLF, REPRESENTING THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, my name is Seymour D. Wolf. I am a business executive, and I serve in a volunteer capacity as first vice president of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, and as chairman of the council's community relations committee. I appear before you as an officer of the Jewish Community Council, and I testify on the council's behalf.

I am also privileged to serve as president of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Washington. However, I want to make it very clear that I am not representing the Better Business Bureau in my appearance here today.

The Jewish Community Council welcomes the opportunity to testify this morning on some of the issues in four bills dealing with consumer protection in the District of Columbia: S. 316, S. 2589, S. 2590, and S. 2592. The council, which is composed of 138 Jewish organizations, synagogues, and institutions in the National Capital area, is already on record in support of legislation which would enhance the protection of consumers in the District of Columbia; we reaffirm our position here this morning.

For several years, representatives of the Jewish Community Council have diligently participated in legislative drafting sessions in the office of the District of Columbia Corporation Counsel. These sessions resulted in the bill which Senator Morse first introduced on September 1, 1966 (S. 3795), and which now bears the number S. 316. As this committee knows, Senator Morse's bill represents the thinking of a very broad cross section of the community, ranging from the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade to the Ad Hoc Committee for Consumer Protection.

Then, on October 26, 1967, you, Senator Tydings, introduced four bills designed to create even stronger protection for the District consumers. We regret the decision of the subcommittee not to consider at this time S. 2591, which deals with the right to cancel retail sales. We hope the Senate will give speedy consideration to such legislation, since the practices of some door-to-door salesmen constitute one of the most serious problem areas in the retail installment field.

With respect to the legislation under consideration this afternoon, it is our sincere desire that some form of general legislative protection against fraudulent and unconscionable practices in retail installment sales be enacted for the District of Columbia. At the present time, there is no such protection. Accordingly, we support, as a basic minimum of protection, the provisions in Senator Morse's bill for the regula-