

CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 6226, New Senate Office Building, Senator Joseph D. Tydings (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senator Tydings.

Also present: Chester H. Smith, staff director; Owen J. Malone, associate counsel; Howard A. Abrahams, assistant counsel; James S. Medill, assistant counsel; Richard E. Judd, professional staff member; and Robert A. Burt, legislative assistant.

Senator TYDINGS. The Subcommittee on Business and Commerce of the U.S. Senate Committee on the District of Columbia is called to order.

This morning, Tuesday, January 30, we are continuing hearings on Senate bills S. 316, S. 2589, S. 2590, and S. 2592, all designed to protect the consumer from fraudulent and sharp practices, particularly in the area of installment sales, by certain District of Columbia merchants.

This morning we are pleased and honored to have as our first witness the Honorable Paul Rand Dixon, Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission of the United States.

I would also like to welcome some of my young constituents from the Silver Hill Elementary School.

I have explained to them, Mr. Dixon, the importance of these hearings.

I might, for the benefit of the students present, describe briefly what Mr. Dixon does.

Mr. Dixon is the Chairman of what is known as the Federal Trade Commission. The Federal Trade Commission was established by a law passed during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson, I believe, in 1913 or 1914.

The Commission is designed to protect the consumer and the public of the United States from sharp practice, from unfair types of competition, from false advertisement; in short, to protect the citizen from being taken advantage of by unfair trade and commerce practices.

I am particularly delighted to have the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, Mr. Paul Rand Dixon, present to testify on the legislation which is now pending before this subcommittee.

Mr. Dixon.