

cause they do not want their children seeing that they have to accept a basket from a group that is in the community because they cannot afford to buy a turkey.

Sewing machines are a necessity because a lot of our people can sew. I have a girl right now that is willing to make me drapes if I can afford to buy the material. They can sew, they can make things that would help themselves. We cannot get sewing machines because the department says you have to go to the store, tell the man that you are on welfare, get a statement from him that he has a machine for a certain amount of money. The department is not going to give you but a certain amount anyway. They have it written in their book, anyway. They are only going to give you a certain amount. Yet you have to put your life on the line, go to the store, get the statement, bring it back and give it to your caseworker to show that you went to the store and that they have a machine for a certain amount.

You do the same thing with the washing machine, which does not make sense. They are only going to give you \$125. Why should I have to go and get a statement for \$175, when they are only going to give me \$125 anyway? Why not give me the \$125 and let me use it to get the machine the best way I possibly can, because they are not going to give me the rest of it?

Another thing that has to be changed in the law is that the washing machines we have found that we have proven through research to be a hazard, because the kind that the department gives you is the wringer type. We have research that has shown that quite a few children have had their arms damaged in the wringer-type machine. One of the things that we are asking, if it is possible, if this committee can do anything about it, is to get that grant for washing machines changed to a grant that will enable people to buy automatic washers. We are refusing to accept wringer washers any longer because there are too many children being damaged.

There is also another thing that has to be brought out here. There is no money to buy new furniture. People are tired of having to buy secondhand furniture. They are tired of having to buy a winter coat every 4 years for an adult. They feel that the regulations should be changed in order to be somewhat more flexible, where they will be able to buy a winter coat in less than 4 years, they will be able to go to a store and buy brandnew furniture. We have taken caseworkers out to Salvation Army stores and the secondhand stores and they refuse to let the clients buy the furniture because the furniture was in that bad condition. All the money that you get for furniture is just enough to buy secondhand furniture. We feel that the people should be able to buy brandnew stuff just like everybody else puts brandnew furniture into their homes.

One of the things that the department has not done that Dr. Wiley has hit on, that I also wish to continue to hit on, is the fact that the department does not tell clients what they are entitled to. We submitted 1,500 fair hearings in New York, and the city was going around as if they were crazy because they were not telling people what they were entitled to, they were denying money that people should have, and we submitted 1,500 fair hearings in order to make the city and the State obey their own laws.