

The original documents are located in Box D9, folder “Ford Press Releases - Safeguards Consumer, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN OFFICE:
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

March 21, 1966

FOR MONDAY P.M. RELEASE

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

I applaud President Johnson's determination to provide safeguards against tragic accidents which have resulted in injury or death to many children throughout the nation.

I strongly favor the child safety legislation outlined by the President in his consumer message, and I believe that we have tarried too long in enacting such a measure.

The President's Consumer Message is a strong and wise one in this regard, but he makes certain general statements which only point up an Administration weakness.

He says, "The consumer has a right to a dollar of stable purchasing power." The Administration to date has failed to halt the steady rise in the prices of many consumer items, notably food and clothing. The President simply has done too little to cope with the inflationary fever which is depriving wage-earners of much of the real rise in their earnings.

He says, "Our standard of living has never been higher." But what he fails to say is that while Americans are spending more and living better, their standard of living will suffer a sharp setback if the Administration and Democrats in Congress refuse to stem the tide of inflation.

(MORE)

The President calls for swift passage of the truth in packaging and truth in lending bills. Both bills are tied up in Senate committees and there has to be good reason for this.

Nobody's opposed to truth in packaging and truth in lending. That's like being against motherhood.

The truth in packaging bill is a touchy package because there's reason to believe it would result in added cost to the consumer--and we've already had enough of rising prices.

In addition, many of the packaging complaints aired before the Senate Commerce Committee have resulted in remedial action by the producers and packagers.

Advocates of the legislation also are ignoring the fact that the President already has all the power he needs to do the job. Deceptive packaging already is a violation of federal and state law.

In sort, the legislation just isn't needed.

As for truth in lending, nobody in his right mind wants to see anyone deceived into paying ridiculously high interest charges. But many contend the proposed Douglas bill is unworkable because it's virtually impossible to determine the simple interest rate accurately at the time of purchase.

This legislation also may be unnecessary because the states are moving in on the gougers in the metropolitan areas where the worst practices exist.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is expected to report in a short time that any federal law of this type would conflict with state laws. The conference also is expected to report that state laws should be adjusted to apply uniformly to the gougers. This would be far better than federal action in this field.

#

March 21, 1966

FOR MONDAY P.M. RELEASE

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

I applaud President Johnson's determination to provide safeguards against tragic accidents which have resulted in injury or death to many children throughout the nation.

I strongly favor the child safety legislation outlined by the President in his consumer message, and I believe that we have tarried too long in enacting such a measure.

The President's Consumer Message is a strong and wise one in this regard, but he makes certain general statements which only point up an Administration weakness.

He says, "The consumer has a right to a dollar of stable purchasing power." The Administration to date has failed to halt the steady rise in the prices of many consumer items, notably food and clothing. The President simply has done too little to cope with the inflationary fever which is depriving wage-earners of much of the real rise in their earnings.

He says, "Our standard of living has never been higher." But what he fails to say is that while Americans are spending more and living better, their standard of living will suffer a sharp setback if the Administration and Democrats in Congress refuse to stem the tide of inflation.



The President calls for swift passage of the truth in packaging and truth in lending bills. Both bills are tied up in Senate committees and there has to be good reason for this.

Nobody's opposed to truth in packaging and truth in lending. That's like being against motherhood.

The truth in packaging bill is a touchy package because there's reason to believe it would result in added cost to the consumer--and we've already had enough of rising prices.

In addition, many of the packaging complaints aired before the Senate Commerce Committee have resulted in remedial action by the producers and packagers.

Advocates of the legislation also are ignoring the fact that the President already has all the power he needs to do the job. Deceptive packaging already is a violation of federal and state law.

In short, the legislation just isn't needed.

As for truth in lending, nobody in his right mind wants to see anyone deceived into paying ridiculously high interest charges. But many contend the proposed Douglas bill is unworkable because it's virtually impossible to determine the simple interest rate accurately at the time of purchase.

This legislation also may be unnecessary because the states are moving in on the gougers in the metropolitan areas where the worst practices exist.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is expected to report in a short time that any federal law of this type would conflict with state laws. The conference also is expected to report that state laws should be adjusted to apply uniformly to the gougers. This would be far better than federal action in this field.