

**The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Consumer Protection Agency - Newspaper Editorials (1)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Attached should accompany letter from Bryce Harlow dated June 17, 1975  
(our letter to Harlow - June 19). RE CONSUMER AGENCY EDITORIALS

See Harlow File

Cincinnati Enquirer  
June 9, 1975

## *There's A Better Way*

RESULTS OF A special study on how federal agencies respond to consumers' complaints provide yet another reason for the House to make certain that the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) never becomes law.

be solved by better management rather than a new layer of government the ACA would impose, the study makes clear that many agencies lack an effective means of handling consumer complaints promptly.

Congress and the White House have

consumer complaints. That is the heart of the problem and the key to the solution.

Despite the experience consumers have with long delays from federal agencies, they are wise in rejecting by a 3-1

NONPAREIL (Circ. 23,051)  
Council Bluffs, Iowa  
June 4, 1975

*What-Others say*

# Consumer Protection Agency

*2* The Wall Street Journal

There still appears to be political magic in the word "consumerism," judging from congressional eagerness to create a Consumer

politics, will act as an impartial advocate for the buying public.

If there is anything the U.S. could do without, it's another layer of federal bureaucracy. No

## *A Consumer 'Aggravacy' Agency?*

A SENATE WHICH by its own admission has failed to look after the best interests of the nation's consumers, has failed them again in its decision to establish an Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA).

The ACA would create another level of bureaucracy between the American consumer and the agencies which are supposed to advocate consumer interests, the

through 1978, and the inevitable expense to which the agency would put business to comply with new federal inquiries. Make no mistake about it: Every cost of business is passed on to the consumer.

Consumer interests are too diverse to be represented by any one agency. For consumers are also producers and manufacturers and salesmen and distributors and investors, and their interests are as

TRIBUNE  
Chicago, Illinois  
June 3, 1975

## *Protect us from Congress*

It's nice to think that Congress is on our side, tho sometimes we're not sure. Take, for example, the Agency for Consumer Advocacy. This proposed bureaucracy, which has been approved by the Senate, is supposed to protect consumers from the ogres of big government by representing the little guy before federal agencies on such matters as prices, safety, and other issues affecting consumers.

We suppose we should appreciate

Relations Board is the one federal agency where consumers will have no voice because organized labor doesn't want consumers meddling in its affairs. We can thank Sen. Percy for this discriminatory exemption because he cast the deciding vote in committee, and along with Sen. Stevenson he voted on the Senate floor to keep the exemption. Sen. Jacob Javits [R., N. Y.], a sponsor of the bill, admitted that without the exemption, the unions would drop their support for consumer protection.

THE BALTIMORE EVENING SUN  
Baltimore, Maryland  
June 3, 1975

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



## Loading a Question

We recently made the observation that the bill to establish a Consumer Protection Agency sailed through both houses of Congress even though a survey by Opinion Research Corp. revealed that a vast majority of Americans don't want a new consumer agency. A number of manic-consumerists have objected to this citation, complaining that Opinion Research Corp. loaded its

sumer protection agency, on top of the FDA, the CPSC, the FTC, etc? Why did the pollster actually state the case of those who oppose the CPA? In short, why didn't the pollsters ask the following question, carefully drafted by Morton C. Paulson in The National Observer:

"Those who are concerned about consumer ripoffs, fraudulent sales schemes, dangerous and shoddy

TRIBUNE  
Chicago, Illinois  
June 1, 1975

*7 A new federal 'monster'*

WHEATON—The U. S. Senate just passed a bill which would create an Agency for Consumer Advocacy. This new monster of big government has a new twist to it. In addition to "protec-

GLOBE DEMOCRAT  
St. Louis, Missouri  
May 30, 1975

## ***Wanted: Protection from consumerists***

**By RONALD REAGAN**



**A FEW DAYS AFTER** you read this, the House of Representatives is expected to pass a bill creating the Agency for Consumer Advocacy. It already has passed the Senate.

**Who** wants this repackaged version of the Consumer Protection Agency bill defeated last year? Ralph Nader and his friends, the professional consumerists and Sens. Jacob Javits, Abraham Ribicoff and Charles Percy are its most ardent supporters.

**Who** doesn't want it? Most Americans, according to a recently published survey by Opinion Research Corp.

**It** found that 75 per cent of the people do not favor efforts to create such an agency. Only 13 per cent do. And,

ALEXANDRIA DAILY TOWN TALK  
Alexandria, Louisiana  
May 29, 1975

# Alexandria Daily Town Talk

Established on March 17, 1883

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Thursday Evening, May 29, 1975

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## Another Agency We Don't Need

What many of us have long suspected has now been confirmed by the prestigious Brookings Institution in Wash-

In the light of the Brookings Institution study, the president's estimate appears to

PHOENIX REPUBLIC (D - 169,536)  
Phoenix, Arizona  
May 29, 1975

## 'Protecting' consumers

Although a recent poll by Opinion Research Corp. showed that a vast majority of Americans oppose the creation of a Consumer Protection Agency, the likelihood is they'll get one anyway.

Two: It would have no say in any government actions that might affect farm prices.

The AFL-CIO insisted on the first; the farm lobby on the second.

## Opposes Federal CPA As Political

The head of New York's largest general farm organization has warned against establishment of a Federal Consumer Protection Agency.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District, New York Farm Bureau President Richard McGuire said:

"The Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) bill passed by

set up the agency would be only a fraction of the agency's cost to consumers. Resulting changes in manufacturing and production, he said, could mean billions of dollars in increased costs passed on to the buying

public.

"New York Farm Bureau urges the public to recognize the serious financial implications of this legislation and to not be misled by political opportunists," said Mr. McGuire.

NORTH CANTON SUN (Weekly)  
Canton, Ohio  
May 28, 1975

# Editorials

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## Public Opposed To New Consumer Agency

American consumers, by a 75% majority, are opposed to the creation of a new, independent consumer agency within the Federal Govern-

ment. The Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs and more than half of these respondents felt it is doing an effective job.

## First, Make The Old Laws Work

ONE OF THE things Congress ought to do before it passes any new laws for the federal bureaucracy to administer, is to make a searching examination of how effectively government is doing the job it is supposed to do.

Just as the squeaky wheel gets the grease, separate House and Senate committees are looking into the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for

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### DAILY THOUGHT

*Men have been barbarians much longer than they have been civilized. They are only precariously civilized, and within us there is the propensity, persistent as the force of gravity, to revert under stress and strain, under neglect or temptation, to our first natures.*

—Walter Lippmann.

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In the Midwest and the Northeast, railroads are in serious trouble because

laws work." In the Senate, where the average senator serves on 16 committees and subcommittees, there appears to be too little time for the nondramatic work of congressional oversight.

But at a time when our institutions are questioned and the wisdom of government policy in many areas seems doubtful, the opportunity to monitor the effectiveness of the federal government is one that can-

DAYTON DAILY NEWS  
Dayton, Ohio  
May 28, 1975

## Useless Agency

The Senate passed a bill creating a consumer protection agency and it is now in the house.

## No need for consumer agency

Although a majority of the people don't want a consumer protection agency, the country is about to get one, like it or not.

The Senate last week, by a 2-1 margin, approved a bill to establish

superficial appeal. But long experience with government regulatory agencies—the alphabet soup that includes ICC, CAB, FTC, FAA and FDC—teaches that this path is filled with frustrating traps and dangerous pitfalls.

Cincinnati Post 3 Star  
May 27, 1975  
Editorial Page

## Spotty consumer protection

Whatever justification there may have been for creating a new consumer protection agency is fast being whittled away by Congress.

The bill approved by the Senate the other day has so many exceptions in it that knowing when to act would be a

major problem for the agency. It would cover a pipeline and anything related to gun control.

These exceptions seem to show that Congress really isn't sure what it wants in the consumer protection field.

The need for a new consumer agency is questionable to begin with, and it's

BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN  
Boston, Massachusetts  
May 27, 1975

## VIEWPOINT

Boston Herald American—Tuesday, May 27, 1975—

# Consumers: Too Much Protection?

For several years, Ralph Nader and a lot of other people have been urging Congress to enact a bill that would create a new federal consumer protection agency. The Senate recently approved the measure and the House is likely to endorse it soon.

President Ford, however, isn't too keen about the whole idea, and he's convinced that this is a rather poor time to be adding to the size and the cost of the federal bureaucracy. In all probability he'll veto the measure, and it is doubtful that Congress will over-ride the veto.

part by several key amendments which were added to the pending bill before it was adopted by the Senate.

Those amendments specifically bar the proposed Agency for Consumer Advocacy from intervening in labor disputes, agricultural proceedings or decisions involving the renewal of broadcast licenses.

There may be valid reasons for those exceptions. But they strongly suggest that even before

Editorials

# Consumer's Own Alertness Would Serve Him Better

THE FEDERAL government may be on the verge of approving a "consumer protection agency" and the Ohio AFL-CIO wants a "public representative" to represent "consumer interests" in public utility rate cases.

There is a problem, however, with consumer protection in that the consumer refuses to be pigeonholed. The "consumer interest" is not a single interest but a variety of interests, sometimes in conflict with one

Positively or negatively. There is nothing inherently sinister about lobbyists. Most pressure groups, in fact, work for "the public interest." They can't help it if their vision is a bit narrow.

Sometimes, as may well happen with the medical malpractice insurance problem, the interests represented are all strong enough and at great enough variance with one another that the compromises worked out are indeed in the best interest of the majority

NEWS-FREE PRESS

(E-65,000)

Chattanooga, Tennessee (S-45,000)

May 22, 1975

## Avoid A Consumer Dictator

Everybody wants to protect "the consumer" these days. Many want to do it by government action, with a federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy being in prime consideration.

It reminds us of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Who's against health and safety in

the pollution-control catalytic converters? What about the consumer who wants to start his car without being assaulted by the sound of buzzers and a refusal of the ignition to unlock until all of the required safety procedures have been accomplished?

Wall Street Journal  
May 22, 1975

## The Consumer Protection Agency

There still appears to be political magic in the word "consumerism," judging from congressional eagerness to create a Consumer Protection Agency. Although a national survey recently conducted by Opinion Research Corp. revealed that a vast majority of Americans don't want a new consumer agency, the

Moreover, it's a measure of the lack of candor surrounding the bill that supporters claim the new agency, whose conception and birth are steeped in partisan politics, will act as an impartial advocate for the buying public.

If there is anything the U.S. could

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

HERALD-EXAMINER (E - 490,000)  
Los Angeles, California  
May 22, 1975

# Consumer Fraud



One of the battle lines of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and nonproductive sectors of society, between the tax payers and the tax consumers.

On the one side will be the dwindling majority who pay most and benefit least from government re-distribution of their income and wealth. On the other side will be the expanding armies of tax consumers: the welfare class, the thousands of consultants and advisors to this and that agency, the businesses and study institutes whose diet contains a rich ingredient of federal gravy, and, of course, the armies of bureaucrats.



FELIX R. MCKNIGHT

## *Watch out for watchdog*

IT HAPPENED so swiftly during the hours of Cambodian crisis that most citizens didn't realize it, but we have another deficit-swelling bureaucracy in the late stages of Washington birth.

It is Ralph Nader's golden project, the Consumer Protection Agency, and the U.S. Senate, after midwifing it by 61-28, has sent it squawling on its way to the House.

ther flowering of the Big Brother arm from Washington? Or is it a duplicating device that eventually will harass and handcuff American business and industry?

It seems more like the latter.

Rep. Burleson told his House colleagues a story about a recent Washington police raid in which a police dog bit his policeman handler. Dogs, he observed, also make mistakes during confusion and excitement

departments in size, controls and cost."

He got to the core of the matter when he observed that we now have laws on the books providing for truth in lending, truth in labeling and packaging and established agencies such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Power Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration and a few other agencies designed to protect

CHRONICLE ( D - 299,228  
Houston, Texas S - 363,711 )  
May 22, 1975

# This is madness

Sweeping and loosely drawn federal environmental laws have enabled dedicated activists and social planners to not only slowly assume a stranglehold on almost any physical change in the country but also to arrogate unto themselves the effective power to dictate the life-styles and economic well-being of the individual citizens.

the EPA can and/or must assume powers no one dreamed was in its province or that the EPA did not wish to assume.

The Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be a parallel case. The agency would be empowered — with certain exceptions, some highly hypocritical — to intervene in, participate in and

MORNING WORLD HERALD  
Omaha, Nebraska  
May 22, 1975

## *Conflict and Consumer Interest*

The proposed Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be a nonregulatory agency with authority to intervene on behalf of the consumer in the decision-making processes of other federal agencies.

"The cattleman in Nebraska is plagued by rising costs of feed and equipment and low prices for his product. The housewife complains she cannot afford to buy hamburger at the supermarket.

OREGONIAN  
Portland, Oregon  
May 22, 1975

Portland Oregonian 5/22/75

## *Regulatory mistake*

The U. S. Senate's decisive endorsement last week, by more than a two-to-one margin, of a new federally funded Consumer Protection Agency virtually guarantees that this ill-defined, bureaucratic monster will be turned loose on us by this Congress.

The bill is still in the House Government Operations Committee, but its veto-proof passage is assured by the three-to-one assent given the bill last year.

The CPA concept — allowing consumers

YOUNGSTOWN VINDICATOR  
Youngstown, Ohio  
May 22, 1975

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### **Consumer Agency Needed?**

The idea of consumer protection has considerable backing in Congress, but the language forced on the bill to get it through the Senate last week may make it more appealing to politicians than to the public.

To overcome the objections of large corporations and big labor, special provisions were made exempting collective bargaining and license renewal for

MESSENGER (D - 15,795 S - 17,101)  
Athens, Ohio  
May 21, 1975

## Protecting Consumers

Ralph Naders notwithstanding, every consumer in the country should be opposed to the creation of an "Agency for Consumer Advocacy" by Congress.

Last week, the Senate passed (61-28) a measure that would establish such an agency next Jan. 1. Now the House of Representatives

illusory services of the federal government down to the consumer.

Add to those forthcoming piles of federal paper the proposed legal powers of the Agency for Consumer Advocacy, and the sum total would be more regulatory confusion at greater taxpayer expense. For instance, the agency

## Dividing line

# Consumer agency foreseen as rip-off

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

WASHINGTON—One of the battle lines of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and non-productive sectors of society, between the taxpayers and the tax consumers.

On the one side will be the dwindling majority who pay

Their politics are McGovernite; their lobby is Common Cause; their patron saint is Ralph Nader. And though considered bad form to question their motivation, like all hustlers, they have an angle.

To be truly effective champions of our interests, they tell us, we must put them on the federal payroll, at large salaries with job security and

NOW OUR champions are back for another bucketful of federal pork. They call it the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA), whose administrator would purportedly represent the consumer interests of 210 million diverse Americans before the federal regulatory agencies.

Thanks to a deal cut by the Naderites with Big Labor

businesses will have to do to get a decision out of government.

If George Gallup of poll fame is to be believed, what concerns the majority of Americans, the consumers if you will, is not the occasional lemon that rolls off the assembly line.

PRESS (D - 287,405 S - 695,157)  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
May 21, 1975

## Some Watchdog

Whatever justification there may have been for creating a new consumer-protection agency is fast being whittled away by Congress.

The bill approved by the Senate the other day has so many exceptions in it that knowing when to act would be a major problem for the

These exceptions seem to show that Congress really isn't sure what it wants in the consumer-protection field.

★ ★ ★

The need for a new consumer agency is questionable to begin with—and it's even more questionable when the scope of the new agency is so severely restricted.

CITIZEN-JOURNAL (D - 118,735)  
Columbus, Ohio  
May 21, 1975

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Dividing Line

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## Tax Payers and Tax Consumers

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Patrick J. Buchanan

**O**NE OF THE battle lines of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and nonproductive sectors of society, between the tax payers and the tax consumers.

On the one side will be the dwindling majority who pay most and benefit least

arians, some of them grateful for his past support, others of them fearful of his retribution.

For the ACA is just about the biggest consumer fraud around.

First, consumers will have to foot the bill for the agency itself. Second, they

Guess who pays the costs?

# New consumer agency would be biggest fraud around

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

ONE OF THE BATTLE LINES of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and non-productive sectors of society, between the tax payers and the tax consumers.

On the one side will be the dwindling majority who pay most and benefit least from government redistribution of their income and wealth. On the other side will be the

of the leaders of business and industry whom they abhor. Their politics are McGovernite; their lobby is Common Cause; their patron saint is Ralph Nader. And though considered bad form to question their motivation, like all hustlers, they have an angle.

To be truly effective champions of our interests, they tell us, we must put them on the federal payroll, at large salaries with job security and sweeping benefits, the better to protect us from

putes from ACA meddling. Congress is on the verge of creating the new agency.

When they do, they will hail it as another gift to the American people. What it is in reality, however, is a \$50 million payoff to Nader from politicians, some of them grateful for his past support, others of them fearful of his retribution.

For the ACA is just about the biggest consumer fraud

# What Does The Consumer Really Want?

*By Patrick J. Buchanan*

WASHINGTON: One of the battle lines of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and nonproductive sectors of society, between the taxpayers and the tax consumers.

On the one side will be the dwindling majority who pay most and benefit least from government redistribution of their in-

come, and paying heavily for it. Those fellows who came to town to protect us from gas-guzzling, unsafe and polluting automobiles wound up enacting into law, safety, damageability and emission standards which outraged drivers, priced our autos out of U.S. and world markets and helped to lengthen those unemployment lines in Detroit.

NOW OUR CHAMPIONS are back for another bucketful of federal pork. They call it the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA), whose administrator would purportedly represent the consumer interests of 210 million diverse Americans before the federal regulatory agencies. Thanks to a deal cut by the Naderites with big labor, exempting organized labor's regulatory disputes from

## *Give Daddy Your Hand*

Three federal agencies set up in recent years by Congress are dedicated to the proposition that the American consumer needs another layer of protection from the greed and sharp practices of the American purveyor of goods and services.

They are the Office of

Will the Office of Consumer Affairs yield its prerogatives to the new Agency for Consumer Advocacy? Will the Consumer Product Safety Commission hand its business over to the ACA? And will the Environmental Protective Agency share its advocacy chores with the new overall agency that Congress is prepared to unload on us?

o o o

The Opinion Research Corporation last January and February conducted a poll

Americans of voting

TRUTH (D - 28,623)  
Elkhart, Indiana  
May 20, 1975

## Consumer Bill Issue

WITH GOOD reason President Ford is against the proposed new federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

In a recent speech the President

But Rep. William F. Goodling, R-Pa., has a more realistic view, saying:

"We already have 1,000 consumer-related programs in some 22 govern-

PRESS (D - 45,780)  
Evansville, Indiana  
May 20, 1975

## Some watchdog

Whatever justification there may have been for creating a new consumer protection agency is fast being whittled away by Congress.

The bill approved by the Senate the other day has so many exceptions in it

it's even more questionable when the scope of the new agency is so severely restricted.

By any standard, there are too many federal agencies already, a number of them allegedly protecting the interests of consumers.

*As the Editor Sees It*

## An Insidious Bill

PERHAPS Pennsylvania's two senators, Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, should give a little more attention to the people they represent instead of to Ralph Nader.

Senators Scott and Schweiker found themselves largely among the Leftists who passed the Senate bill to create a new Agency for Consumer Advocacy, 61 to 28.

President Ford has expressed his own opposition to this bill, which is

States Chamber of Commerce in Washington his agency was the "most dangerous" in Washington.

He referred to its almost absolute powers, pointing out how it could bar from the market arbitrarily any product in America.

We have a multitude of organizations, in government and out, advising and protecting the consumer.

The net result of these and many

TRIBUNE (D - 105,856)  
Des Moines, Iowa  
May 20, 1975

## Consumer's advocate

The Senate has passed a bill to set up a federal consumer advocacy agency. House passage also is expected, but opponents are urging defeat of the bill by presidential veto.

The proposed Agency for Consumer Advocacy would give a voice before regulatory agencies and in the courts to consumers now without a power base in the government. The agency also

BROOKINGS REGISTER (E - 4,200)  
Brookings, South Dakota  
May 20, 1975

## *Where more tax dollars are headed*

The pending move to vote yet another agency into law probably surprises no one yet many people grimace at the thought of still more tax dollars earmarked for big government.

The Senate last week voted 61-37 to

STAR TELEGRAM  
Ft. Worth, Texas  
May 20, 1975

# New agency has potential as monster

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK

WASHINGTON—It's only an itsy-bit-sy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Sen. Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized agency," costing only \$15 million in its first year. Who could op-

There is much more. The agency would be authorized, for example, to compel businessmen and manufacturers to answer formal interrogatories. The agency would conduct surveys and make studies. It would prepare and publish reports. It will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer." It will give "the consumer" a voice in government which can be heard.

\* \* \*

"Who is 'the consumer?'" asked Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio. "Who is this mythical 'everyman?'" I do not believe there is a composite everyman out there in this complex, ever-changing nation of individuals. What is in the interest of one consumer in one set of circum-

Cincinnati Enquirer  
May 20, 1975

# An Itsy-Bitsy Monster

*By James J. Kilpatrick*

WASHINGTON: It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Sen. Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized agency," costing only \$15 million in its first year. Who could oppose the little darling?

What we have here is a teeny-weeny

THERE IS MUCH MORE. The agency would be authorized, for example, to compel businessmen and manufacturers to answer formal interrogatories. The agency would conduct surveys and make studies. It would prepare and publish reports. It will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer." It will give "the consumer" a voice in government which can be

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE  
Phoenix, Arizona  
May 20, 1975

## Regulation Atop Overregulation

One of the major things wrong with the American economy is bureaucratic overregulation. It would seem therefore that our federal lawmakers would seek to avoid adding to the bureaucracy and the regulation.

Not so, sad to say. Instead, the

which is death on discrimination elsewhere, practiced some discrimination itself. Exempted from the jurisdiction of the agency are federal agency actions having to do with agriculture, labor disputes, broadcast license-renewal decisions and controversies involving the Alaska pipeline.

Rm.

BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1975 17

**Patrick  
Buchanan**

# America's Latest Consumer Fraud

WASHINGTON — One of the battle lines of the politics of the future will be drawn between the productive and nonproductive sectors of society, between the taxpayers

Nader. And though considered bad form to question their motivation, like all hustlers, they have an angle.

To be truly effective champions of our interests, they tell us we must put them on the federal payroll, at large

When they do, they will hail it as another gift to the American people. What it is, in reality, however, is a \$60 million payoff to Nader from politicians, some of them grateful for his past support, others of them fearful of his retribution.

OBSERVER (D - 5,934)  
La Grande, Oregon  
May 19, 1975

## *Agency for Consumer Advocacy*

# Bureaucratic monster in the making

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK

WASHINGTON — It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized

operations; it is to transmit consumer complaints to appropriate agencies for action; it is to maintain files, open to public inspection, of consumer complaints; and it is to advise and assist state and local consumer agencies.

Democratic liberals plainly have the votes, in both House and Senate, to pass this costly, needless, and autocratic legislation. They may not have the votes to sustain a veto. If President Ford means what he says about stopping bureaucratic growth,

DAILY FREE PRESS  
Kinston, North Carolina  
May 19, 1975

# Itsy-Bitsy Monster

WASHINGTON — It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized agency," costing only \$15 millions in its first



By  
James J.  
Kilpatrick

in such decisions. Sponsors of the new consumer agency complain that these agencies have become mere co-conspirators with the subjects of their regulation. The charge is nonsense. And to suggest that consumer groups are voiceless in Washington is

## *Editorial wrapup*

# What the rest are saying

### CONSUMER BUREAUS

The cause of the consumer being touted in Harrisburg is being championed in Washington, too, and in both cases the consumer stands to lose.

Last month we pointed out here that Pennsylvania's legis-

MESSENGER (D - 8,443)  
Union City, Tennessee  
May 19, 1975

# The Itsy-Bitsy Bureaucratic Monster

By James J. Kilpatrick

It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Senator Abe Ribicoff of

untouchable and unaccountable, whose modest duties require him to determine "the consumer's in-

Ohio. "Who is this mythical 'every man'? I do not believe there is a composite every man out there in this complex, ever-changing nation of in-

have the votes, in both House and Senate, to pass this costly, needless, and autocratic legislation. They may not have the votes to override a

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL  
Akron, Ohio  
May 19, 1975

# A Busybody We Don't Need

THE WIDE margin by which the Senate voted to limit debate on the consumer protection agency bill was the tip-off that most

one is looking after the interests of the ordinary citizens.

Nevermind that that is the function of

THE JOURNAL HERALD  
Dayton, Ohio  
May 19, 1975

# Consumer Bill

*... we doubt that public will be protected*

Consumer protection as a governmental responsibility is clearly an idea that will have to be dealt with sooner or later, and the present bill approaches

that the nobler goals are best pursued without the interference of government.  
The Agency for

# Consumer office is bound to grow and grow and...

WASHINGTON — It's only an itty-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Sen. Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a small, specialized

by  
James J.  
Kilpatrick

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
Chicago, Illinois  
May 19, 1975

The agency would conduct surveys and make studies. It will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer." It will give "the consumer" a voice in government which can be heard.

"Who is 'the consumer'?" asked Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio. "Who is this mythical 'everyman'? I do not believe there is a composite everyman out there in this complex, ever-changing nation of individuals. What is in the interest of one consumer in one set of

THE STATE  
Columbia, South Carolina  
May 18, 1975

# Federal Consumer Advocates Not Needed

THE NEXT collision between President Ford and Congress is likely to be over the question of creating an Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

~~The~~ U. S. Senate voted over-

ready to embrace a new agency which can bedevil business and industry and increase costs, much of which will be passed through to the consumer the agency is supposed to protect.

COURIER-EXPRESS (D - 127,955  
Buffalo, New York S - 287,271)  
May 18, 1975

## Another Consumer Agency Not Needed

The federal government is hardly lacking in agencies dealing with consumer problems. At last count, an Office of Consumer Affairs directory listed 39

Agency for Consumer Advocacy doesn't make the idea any more palatable). The consumer needs—and is entitled to—protection, but adding to the federal

TIMES-DISPATCH (M - 140,000  
Richmond, Virginia S - 195,000)  
May 18, 1975

## Sticking the Consumer

The Senate has overwhelmingly passed a bill designed to aid the consumer. It is to laugh.

It will "aid" him by providing more federal bureaucracy, with hundreds of new federal jobs, for

regulatory agencies and in the courts.

Virginia Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. told the Senate:

"Piling bureaucracy on top of bureaucracy has never solved

## A Conservative View

# Consumer Agency Would Be A Tiny Monster

By James J. Kilpatrick

WASHINGTON — It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Sen. Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized agency," costing only \$15 million in its first year. Who could oppose the little darling?

What we have here is a teeny-weeny

porarily — a considerable improvement over the bill that happily was filibustered to death last fall. Ribicoff's new version contains no grant-in-aid provision to stimulate consumerism at state and local levels. A few safeguards have been added to protect small businessmen from harassment. But if familiar patterns of bureaucratic growth provide a reliable guide, the Agency for Consumer Advocacy soon enough will retrieve the dis-

modest duties require him to determine "the consumer's interest" in thousands of decisions made annually by other federal agencies, to represent this supposed interest in various proceedings, and to function as an intervenor with power to appeal decisions through judicial review.

This is only the beginning. The agency is to obtain and disseminate information to consumers; it is to act as a clearing house for consumer complaints; it is to

There is much more. The agency would be authorized, for example, to compel businessmen and manufacturers to answer formal interrogatories. The agency would conduct surveys and make studies. It would prepare and publish reports. It will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer." It will give "the consumer" a voice in government which can be heard.

"Who is 'the consumer'?" asked Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio. "Who is this

SIOUX CITY JOURNAL (Circ. 73,256)  
Sioux City, Iowa  
May 18, 1975

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MAY 18 1975

# Consumer Agency

It looks as though Congress is intent upon passing legislation to create yet another government bureaucracy — the Agency for Consumer Advocacy. It is billed as the consumer's independent

shod over other agencies and to disrupt the smooth functioning of government. Sen. James Allen, D-Ala., labeled it a "big brother" agency that could become "an uncontrollable monster."

TELEGRAM (D - 16,975)  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina  
May 18, 1975

## Reduce Business Regulations

We are on President Ford's side in his efforts to improve the existing agencies and eliminate unnecessary regulations.

It is good to read that Ford is pushing for reduced government regulation of business to counter the drive in Congress for creation of an Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

President Ford outlined his program

Quarterly, Ford will call an "unprecedented meeting" of the heads of the 10 major regulatory agencies, along with key members of Congress and the administration, to discuss over-regulation.

He said he had ordered all executive departments to "evaluate the inflationary impact of significant legislation, rules and regulations which we propose."

WASHINGTON STAR  
Washington, D.C.  
May 18, 1975

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# The Washington Star

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## Consumer Bureaucracy

Certainly the Senate's passage last week of legislation to create a federal consumer protection agency came as no surprise. The measure had been filibustered last year and this year by its dedicated opponents, who knew they were defeated once it got to the floor for an up-or-down vote. For not too many legislators want to be tagged with an "anti-consumer" vote, though many know that this particular remedy may turn into something that lots of consumers will wish they never heard of.

Still, 28 senators did have the nerve to vote

Though its proposed beginnings are modest enough — a \$60 million authorization over three years — its diffused mission makes mammoth expansion of both funding and functions almost inevitable. The cost of the operation might very well outweigh its benefits to the taxpayer, in the long run.

For the fact remains that regulatory agencies, already exist to provide the protections referred to by the Consumer Federation, and surely no one thinks that all these are utterly failing. In addition, there are dozens of consumer protec-

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James J. Kilpatrick

## This New Consumer Plan Would Become a Monster

Washington

It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy said Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. His new Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be nothing more than a "small, specialized agency," costing only \$15 million in its first year. Who could oppose the little darling?

What we have here is a teeny-weeny monster. It is a baby crocodile, its teeth

plaints, and it is to advise and assist state and local consumer agencies.

There is much more. The agency would be authorized, for example, to compel businessmen and manufacturers to answer formal interrogatories. The agency would conduct surveys and make studies. It would prepare and publish reports. It will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer." It will give "the consumer" a voice in gov-

SUN-TIMES (Sun. Circ. 726,396)  
Chicago, Illinois  
May 18, 1975

# Problems in consumers bill too big

While I would support any legislation that intelligently moves to provide better protection for the consumer, as a lawyer I have worked on this legislation, and in my judgment the problems created by the proposed consumer-protection agency outweigh its merits.

The biggest factor with government regu-