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OREGONIAN (D - 241,733)

Portland, Oregon

May 18, 1975

# Itsy-bitsy advocacy agency sure to grow into ugly monster

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK

WASHINGTON — It's only an itsy-bitsy addition to federal bureaucracy, said Sen. Joe Blakely 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

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

sumer" in the price of natural gas? In the price of farm commodities? In air fares? In the building of a dam? In the construction of a highway?

Historically, the practice has been for the government's regulatory agencies, through adversary proceedings, to determine the public interest in such decisions. Sponsors of the new consum-

# Consumer agency bureaucratic 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

lion is to increase to \$25 million two years hence, an increase of 66 per cent. Not bad for an itsy-bitsy baby.

This "small, specialized agency" is to be headed by an administrator, virtually untouchable and unaccountable, whose modest duties require him to determine "the consumer's interest" in thousands

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

other consumer in another set of circumstances."

Taft is right. What is the interest of "the consumer" in Department of Transportation proceedings having to do with automobiles? Does "the consumer" want ignition interlocks, safety bumpers, and costly anti-smog devices?

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 to toss truth out the

BULLETIN (D- 13,379)  
Bend, Oregon  
May 17, 1975

# Consumers / New agency would be a tiny monster

By James J. Kilpatrick  
Of the Washington Star

862  
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

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.

MANKOTA FREE PRESS (E - 23,961)  
Mankota, Minnesota  
May 17, 1975

## Monster in the making?

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK  
The Washington Star

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TRIBUNE (E - 8,510)  
Grand Haven, Michigan  
May 17, 1975

# New Consumers U.S. agency is for the birds

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK

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 agency," costing only \$15 million in its first year. Who could oppose the little darling?

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

DAILY NEWS (M - 2,100,000)  
New York, New York  
May 17, 1975

## A COSTLY MISTAKE

The Senate has voted 61-23 to create an "Agency for Consumer Advocacy"—a super-snooper group inside the federal government that would monitor and intervene in all agencies and bureaus dealing with consumer interests. Its chief sponsor is Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.).

This new consumer outfit would cost taxpayers \$60 million

REPORTER (D - 8,111)  
Coldwater, Michigan  
May 17, 1975

## EDITORIAL

# Consumers

# Prefer Own Way

If the overwhelming majority of American consumers have their way, Congress will again shelve the idea of setting up a super consumer advocate in Washington.

Although the empowering legislation, "The Consumer Protection Agency Act of 1975," has been endorsed by an impressive 11-1 vote in the Senate's Government Operations Committee, American consumers, by a 75 per cent majority, are opposed to the creation of a new, independent consumer agency within the federal government — according, that is, to another of those ubiquitous public opinion surveys.

The survey found that only 13 per cent of consumers support the bill (S.200), which its proponents say would give consumers a larger voice in helping shape government decisions. Not only

JAMES J. KILPATRICK

## Spawning an Agency That Would Mushroom

It's only an itty-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 not fully formed. This legislative creature, born in the image of Ralph Nader, will grow in a few years to consume

er 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.

There is much more. The agency will function, says the senator, as a spokesman for "the consumer."

"Who is 'the consumer'?" asked Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. "Who is this mythical 'every man'? I do not believe there is a composite every man out there in this

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 17, 1975

## ✓ Whether We Want It Or Not ✓

There are increasing signs that Congress is determined to create an Agency For Consumer Advocacy even though polls show the public does not want it.

Last year the House passed a measure establishing the new

they had "almost always" or "usually" been given fair treatment by business, while 11 percent were negative. A few negative diehards have challenged the legitimacy of the survey, but the Roper organization says it's valid.

# Ford will veto 'Big Brother' bill

SOUTHEAST NEWS (5xW - 10,553)  
Downey, California  
May 16, 1975

By FRANK VAN DER LINDEN  
WASHINGTON — President Ford is privately assuring conservative senators that he will veto the revised "big brother" bill, setting up a new federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

Ford has personally passed the word to the senators that he really intends to stand with them in a last-ditch effort to block the creation of

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The Senate today completed passage of the Nader consumer protection agency bill.

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ment, stretching out litigation by months and even years.

The A.C.A. also could second-guess the State Department in its dealings with foreign nations —

NEWS

Birmingham, Alabama

May 16, 1975

# Ford Should Veto ACA

Considering the vast amounts of red ink in the upcoming federal budget and the backbreaking load of government ordered paper work already on the nation's businessmen, President Ford should veto the bill creating something called the Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

population had ever even heard of the proposed legislation. Of the 13 per cent who favored the idea, 6 per cent withdrew their support when they learned that the new agency would cost at least \$60 million over the first three years.

The poll thus reveals that 81 per cent of Americans oppose the agency its

SACRAMENTO UNION  
Sacramento, California  
May 16, 1975

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## Consumer Advocacy

# Congress Proposes A Needless Agency

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### The Sacramento Union

Founded March 19, 1851

A part of California's great history—  
dedicated to her greater future

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Peter J. Hayes, editor  
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After turning back intensive lobbying for the past five years, Congress appears to be on the verge of passing legislation creating a federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

The Senate Thursday approved the measure by a vote of 61 to 28. The House is expected to approve a companion measure.

But if sponsors are jubilant over impending Congressional approval of the agency, many

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# Editorial Page

Offices at 301 Capitol Mall, Box 2711,  
Sacramento 95812. Phone 442-7811.

**B2—Friday, May 16, 1975**

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SPOKANE CHRONICLE (D - 72,219)  
Spokane, Washington  
May 16, 1975

# More Bureaucracy Opposed

02

With all the favorable publicity given consumer advocate Ralph Nader in recent years, the results of a recent national poll on whether a new federal consumer agency should be

most always" or "usually" have been given fair treatment by business.

But only 21 per cent said they were "almost always" fairly treated by government. Another 58 per cent said they "usually" were fairly treated

# Consumers Vs. People

THE U.S. Senate has voted overwhelmingly to toss off \$60 million a year on a new Federal agency which, according to ASSOCIATED PRESS, will give "consumers a strong and independent voice inside the Federal Government."

Think about that for a minute. The implication is that the people of the United States, i.e. consumers, have

If, in fact, the American people have lost control of their own Government, the problem isn't likely to be solved by creating another Government bureau with a gimmicky name like "Agency for Consumer Advocacy."

The proposed new bureau would be empowered to represent "consumers" i.e. the public, but the

## Editorials

# *Taxpayer is one to help*

Legislation to set up a federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy appears likely to land on the President's desk. The agency is to have the authority to represent consumers in the proceedings of most federal regulatory agencies.

President Ford has said he doesn't like the bill, but he hasn't said he'd use a veto. His position, which we consider sound, is that the bill would add another

OKLAHOMAN

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 15, 1975

## Ford Should Veto ACA

**C**ONGRESSIONAL wheels are grinding inexorably toward passage of legislation creating a new Agency for Consumer Advocacy, which the country needs about like it needs another Vietnam war. About the only hope remaining to prevent this absurdity from becoming law is the veto power of President Ford—if

ample, the new agency is specifically prohibited from interfering in any labor dispute or any case before the National Labor Relations Board.

Labor leaders demanded and got a complete exemption in the bill. It is mere coincidence, of course, that many in the new liberal majority of the 94th Congress owe their election

## Not Another Watchdog

We guess it was only natural. There are so many bureaucrats around that another bureau is advocated to regulate the bureaus.

That's essentially what the Agency for Consumer Advocacy is all about. Advocates of the advocacy agency contend that the nation needs a bureau to watch the watchdogs.

It is all a matter of debate so far. The

advocates for the Agency for Consumer Advocacy want to help us consumers, then the place to start is with the existing bureaus, not to create a new one. We consumers would be helped immeasurably if our Congress would declare war on the bureaus, cutting their staffs to the bone, eliminating all the conflicting rules and regulations and doing away with the

NEWS TRIBUNE (D - 19,464)  
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania  
(Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area)  
May 15, 1975

In our opinion:

# Is a new agency needed?

Congress seems to be heading toward the creation of another federal agency - one supposedly with a lot of voter appeal. This is the Agency for Consumer Advocacy. Its role would be to represent consumers before government agencies in dealing with complaints about businesses. In a sense it would be a federally funded better business bureau - with teeth.

If that sounds good for the consumer, consider the fact that: such an agency will cost money to a government already

IDAHO FARMER-STOCKMAN  
Boise, Idaho (31,500)  
May 15, 1975

## Consumer Protection

WITH the rising unemployment of recent months and the continued shrinkage of purchasing power of the dollar, a good case can be made, by those so inclined, for legislation which would, theoretically at least, "guarantee" that consumers obtain full value for every dollar spent.

And such a case is being made, as witness the fact the "Consumer Protection Act of 1975", a successor to similar legislation defeated in the last Congress, has generated a good deal of support from so-called consumer advocates and other groups, and is given a fairly good chance of passage by the present Con-

MORNING SUN (D - 183,549)  
Baltimore, Maryland  
May 15, 1975

### **Too Much Guidance**

*Sir* We Americans have got to be the most advised, supervised, guided, guarded, controlled, looked-after and cared-for people in the world. From practically the day we are born we are conducted and led by the hand. . . . The supervision goes on all through our lives.

We are told by someone, either in government or in some self-appointed capacity what to eat, what to drink, what not to smoke, how to dress, what movies we

# Consumers lukewarm to 'watchdog' idea, poll results show

BY DONALD LAMBRO  
A News Analysis

WASHINGTON (UPI)—  
Congress is trying again this  
year to create a federal con-  
sumer advocacy agency even  
though according to a  
business-sponsored poll, con-  
sumers aren't exactly pound-  
ing its doors in favor of the  
proposed program.

always" or "usually" been  
given fair treatment by busi-  
ness.

• 86 per cent gave business  
a favorable rating, while 11  
per cent said they were treat-  
ed "usually unfairly" and 2  
per cent said "almost always  
unfairly."

• 21 per cent said they  
were "almost always fair."

The proposed agency for  
consumer advocacy would be  
empowered to intervene as a  
full legal party in behalf of  
consumers before any formal  
proceedings of the federal  
government except in situa-  
tions involving national  
security, labor-management  
and broadcast licensing.

The House passed the

EVENING NEWS (E - 75,000)  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
May 15, 1975

# Consumers don't want a Federal agency

Poll shows majority is against proposal  
but Congress plans to vote it anyway

By DONALD LAMBRO  
UPI writer

CONGRESS is trying again this year to create a Federal consumer advocacy agency even though consumers aren't exactly pounding its doors in favor of the proposed program.

"usually unfairly" or "almost always unfairly" by government.

★ ★ ★

—Many think the best way to deal with a bad product is to go directly to the person who sold it to them, the Better Business Bureau, or the business which made the product or provided the service.

The poll was conducted by the

agency, has challenged the survey's legitimacy, calling it "typical of the tactics used over the years by those determined to prevent creation of the agency."

But the survey's professionalism has received the approval of the Roper poll-taking outfit which called it valid.

★ ★ ★

The proposed agency for consumer advocacy would be empowered to intervene as a full legal party in behalf of consumers before

## Public Busybody

WITH THE crushing of a Senate filibuster the other day, creation of a federal "consumer protection agency" becomes almost a certainty. More's the pity.

The CPA, retitled Agency for Consumer Advocacy, was defeated last year only through a determined filibuster. Now, the Senate logjam is broken. Only a presidential veto is theoretically capable of saving the consuming public from its would-be savior. And

try—the example is merely hypothetical—to have air bags installed in all automobiles. What if there are those of us who do not wish airbags in our cars—on grounds of cost, if no other? Is that not our own business? Is a government agency to decide for us what is in "the consumer's" interest?

It is for reasons such as these, quite likely, that public opinion actually is against the agency

# The Dallas Morning News

*The News, oldest business institution in Texas, was established in 1842  
while Texas was a Republic*

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Editorial Director

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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1975

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THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD  
Dallas, Texas  
May 15, 1975

# THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD EDITORIALS

2—B\*\*\*\*Thurs., May 15, 1975

## Consumer agency

*THE ISSUE: Should Congress create a Consumer Protection Agency?*

THE PROPOSED creation of an independent "Consumer Protection Agency" within the federal bureaucracy is soon coming to a vote in the U.S. Senate after more than

ities that all federal agencies should feel towards the people.

And what Congress will end up creating is another layer of federal government with more federal employes, millions of dollars in more funds, and more redtape to reduce the efficiency of the federal government.

THE WILSON DAILY TIMES  
Wilson, North Carolina  
May 14, 1975

## THE WILSON DAILY TIMES

117 N. GOLDSBORO STREET, WILSON, N. C. 27893  
PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON, EXCEPT SUNDAY  
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MRS. ELIZABETH G. SWINDELL  
Editor and Publisher

JOHN W. SCOTT  
Managing Editor

### *Thought For Today*

"They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." — Jeremiah 8:11.

"It must be a peace without victory. Only a peace between equals can last: only a peace, the very principle of which is equality, and a common participation in a common benefit." — Woodrow Wilson, 28th U.S. president.

## *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.

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

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake City, Utah (6xW-80,299)

May 14, 1975

## Veto the consumer agency bill

169  
More than 33 federal agencies already conduct over 1,000 programs on behalf of consumers.

poll-taker, the Roper organization. The poll found that:

— 75 percent of the consumers

THE SENTINEL  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
May 14, 1975

# *Poll Shows People Don't Want Consumer Agency*

By DONALD LAMBRO

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress is trying again this year to create a federal consumer advocacy agency even though consumers aren't exactly pounding its doors in favor of the proposed program.

—More than four out of five say they have "almost always" or "usually" been given fair treatment by business.

—86 per cent gave business a favorable rating while 11 per cent said they were treated "usually unfairly" and 2 per cent said "almost always unfairly."

creation of the agency."

But the survey's professionalism has received the approval of the Roper poll-taking outfit which called it valid.

The proposed Agency for Consumer Advocacy would be empowered to intervene as a full legal party in behalf of consumers

RECORD-COURIER (D - 24,664)  
Kent-Ravenna, Ohio  
(Akron Metropolitan Area)  
May 14, 1975

# Most consumers don't want advocacy agency

Congress is trying again this year to create a federal consumer-advocacy agency even though consumers aren't exactly pounding its doors in favor of the proposed program.

A research group, in a poll conducted for an organization of business

the person who sold it to them, the Better Business Bureau, or the business who made the product or provided the service.

The poll was conducted by the Princeton, N.J. firm for the Business

AUGUSTA HERALD  
Augusta, Georgia

May 14, 1975

# AUGUSTA HERALD

*Editorial Page*

Wednesday, May 14, 1975

## Pro-Business Poll

Some indication of what the American public thinks about the practice of creating bureau after federal bureau, as well as its feeling about the essential fairness of business, is to be found in results of a public-opinion survey just concluded by the Opinion Research

manufacturer of the product.

There is, to our way of thinking, more of significance to the poll's findings than the raw statistics themselves. Respondents clearly show they are interested in better government as opposed to more government (80 per cent are satis-

## A new consumer agency

# *Why is it needed?*

Congress follows its own perverse brand of logic.

Since federal sprawl and deficit spending rank as two of the nation's biggest problems, Congress is naturally giving serious thought to creating a new and unwanted superagency that would add heavily to the cost of government.

Theoretically, the proposed Agency

Sen. James Allen has noted some of those contradictions.

According to one argument, he observes, consumers don't have the time, money or ability to speak for themselves before the various agencies of government. If that's true, by what magic would they get the time, money and ability to appear before the superagency to make their views

ADVOCATE (D - 30,800)  
Stamford, Connecticut  
(Bridgeport Metropolitan Area)  
May 13, 1975

## Caveat consumer?

The day of caveat emptor — let the buyer beware — has long since passed in this country. It is no longer debatable that the consumer must be protected by strong government action consumers who happen also to be taxpayers: a costly duplication of services and a multiplication of eager civil servants.

In addition to the federal agencies, state consumer

SENTINEL (6xW - 10,335)  
Hanford, California  
May 12, 1975

## Consumer Complaints

**A** WHILE a proposal to start a federal consumer protection agency remains alive in Washington, D.C., customers and merchants ought to be more aware of the means already available to them to reconcile consumer complaints.

The Better Business Bureau has an office in Fresno which serves the public free of charge. For those who look on the BBB as merely a front for business, it should be noted that the Bureau can conduct binding arbitration and has settled 79 per cent of the

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake City, Utah (6xW-80,299)

May 12, 1975

# Consumers don't need this kind of 'help'

A 169  
If there's anything an already big and bloated federal bureaucracy doesn't need, it's another layer of fat.

Yet that's precisely what the taxpayers had better brace themselves for as the U.S. Senate girds this week for a battle over a proposed new Consumer Protection Agency. The word from Washington is that passage is all but assured.

three years may sound like small change when federal budgets run in the hundreds of billions. But there's nothing minor league about adding to a deficit that already approximates total federal spending of only two decades ago. Then there's the well-known tendency of federal empire-builders to expand their operations.

There's no guarantee that the new agency can do a better job than the others.

Indeed, the new agency could muddy the waters. Consumers don't constitute a single bloc. They don't all have identical interests. An all-purpose agency that tries to fight the good fight for one set of consumers

NEWS (D - 442,250)  
Chicago, Illinois  
May 12, 1975

## Letters:

'Consumer agency will  
only consume my money'

I am categorically opposed to the creation of the new consumer agency advocated by Sen. Charles Percy and several members of Congress. This will create more government spending in the form of new jobs, new budgets and

POST (D - 254,426 S - 283,771)  
Houston, Texas  
May 10, 1975

# Consumer 'Caesar' predicted

Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. John G. Tower, R-Texas, one of the most vocal critics of the proposed creation of the Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA), claimed Friday that legislation to establish it would "crown a Caesar" in the federal bureaucracy.

The ACA bill, now pending

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
(PM - 238,490)  
Buffalo, N. Y.  
May 9, 1975

## 2 'Bad Idea Whose Time Has Gone'

✦ The Senate has begun again one of its periodic debates over a dubious proposal to create a brand new federal consumer protection agency. Someone else has called this a "bad idea whose time has come and gone." However that may be, the current Senate proposal begs countless tough questions.

Basically, the idea is to set up a federal agency whose main task would be to

As important as the question of whether this Senate bill seriously meets the need alleged by its supporters is the question of whether that need, in fact, exists.

Apart from all the federal consumer activities long in effect, many state, local and private programs help the consumer. New York State's attorney general oversees a consumer frauds bureau, for

CORNING LEADER (E - 17,000)  
Corning, New York  
May 9, 1975

# Existing Agencies Able To Protect The Public

Findings in a study of "Government and the Consumer" conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation appear to run contrary to reports that consumers have lost confidence in the business community.

The comprehensive survey, using a cross-section sampling of the population from coast to coast, rich

## *OUR OPINION*

When a sampling of those who favored such a new agency were asked if they would still be in favor if the costs were to be "at least \$60 million for the first three years," as provided by proposed legislation (\$200) under consideration in the

public interest."

We question whether or not this is the case and urge every one to look at this bill in terms of overlapping areas of regulation. It appears to be still another layer of government regulation, which will increase the

NEWS-HERALD (D - 28,428  
Willoughby, Ohio S - 28,559)  
(Cleveland Metropolitan Area)  
May 9, 1975

# Taft Tries to Defeat U.S. Consumer Agency

By **GLENN WAGGONER**  
News-Herald Bureau

WASHINGTON—Sen. Robert Taft Jr., working again to defeat a proposed independent consumer advocacy agency, yesterday offered his own alternative "consumer representation" plan.

under the President. In addition, Consumer Representation Offices would be established in each of the federal agencies and departments.

THE VARIOUS consumer offices, Taft said in a press conference, would basically work within federal agencies on behalf of consumers.

"They could request parent agency

IDAHO FREE PRESS  
Nampa, Idaho (D-8, 556)  
May 9, 1975

Today's editorial

# Another bureau layer?

941  
Do we really need or want another level of bureaucracy telling us the when, where, why and how of protecting ourselves?

The latest boondoggle out of Washington could be the agency to end all agencies. There is a strong movement in the U.S. Senate to create a Consumer Protection Agency.

Being against protecting the consumer is a little like opposing motherhood, apple

down, whatever, and he is perfectly legal in doing so.

Thus it is with a great deal of apprehension that one ponders a Consumer Protection Agency. Sen. Jim McClure says the country already has \$558 million worth of protection in force from 1974-76.

The simple truth is that bureaucracy doesn't produce a thing—it only costs the citizen more money in the form of higher-

GATE CITY JOURNAL  
Nyssa, Oregon (W-1,716)  
May 8, 1975

**IS THIS SOMETHING WE NEED?**

A recent survey of American consumers by the Opinion Research Corporation indicates that 75 per cent favor improving existing Federal consumer protection agencies. Only 13 per cent favor creating a new one. Nevertheless, legislation before the Senate would authorize \$60 million to create an Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) and operate it for three years.

Already we have the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Com-

EXPRESS

Vernal, Utah (W-3,276)

May 8, 1975

## Agency for consumer advocacy opposed by Sen. Garn

**A** The proposed new Agency for Consumer Advocacy has the potential of becoming "the biggest blundering bureaucracy of them all,"

according to U. S. Senator Jake Garn. In a statement released last week from his office,

Garn said that even though he is solidly opposed to the agency, he does support one amendment to the bill that would allow him to intervene in the proceedings of every federal agency. The possibility for delays and red tape are enormous."

Garn said that even though he is solidly opposed to the agency, he does support one amendment to the bill that would allow him to intervene in the proceedings of every federal agency. The possibility for delays and red tape are enormous."

else. If Congress were to vote an exemption for unions, it would be politics at its worst.

"One of the questions in the country today is whether there are two levels of law: one which applies to the rich and the

GUNNISON VALLEY TIMES  
Gunnison, Utah (W-1,056)  
May 8, 1975

## Protect Public From Protectors

The proposed new Agency for Consumer Advocacy has the potential of becoming "the biggest blundering bureaucracy of them all," according to U.S. Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah). In a statement released today from his office, Garn said, "Every time we get a new regulatory agency, it is supposed to protect the public. Now we have carried the theory to the extreme, and are ready to create an agency which would protect the public from the protectors.

"One of the big problems in

S. JERSEY STAR-ADVERTISER PRESS  
Bridgeton, New Jersey (W - 2,929)  
May 8, 1975

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**HELP WE CAN DO WITHOUT!**



## Senate Debates Consumer Bill; Agency Supporters Optimistic

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 7—The Senate began today its perennial debate on legislation creating a Federal consumer protection agency amid indications that this year the bill might pass.

Even before the Senators took turns reading their prepared statements for or against the measure on the Senate floor, Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, the bill and asked Congress to postpone further action on it.

Mr. Ford did not threaten to veto the bill, but he said the measure would create "yet another Federal bureaucracy" at a three-year cost of \$60-million. He said he had instructed the existing Federal agencies to review their procedures as

TIMES HERALD  
Dallas, Texas  
May 8, 1975

# Consumer opponents expect veto

Times Herald Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON — Opponents of consumer protection legislation concede passage is likely in the Senate next week but claim they have enough votes to sustain a veto.

Sen. John Tower opened debate for the opposition Wednesday calling the bill to create an agency for consumer advocacy "an utter atrocity."

The Texas Republican said the measure would "proliferate

"There simply is no such thing as a single consumer interest," Tower contended.

He asked whose interest would be served in the debate over automobile emission controls or low-priced foreign imports versus American jobs.

The bill, he said, may protect some consumers but it will be opposed by others.

STAR TELEGRAPH  
Ft. Worth, Texas  
May 8, 1975

## Proposed consumer panel 'utter atrocity,' Tower says

Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The new consumer agency the Senate is considering establishing would clog the courts, disrupt the free market system and proliferate the bureaucracy

Corp. in his claim that there is no demand for the consumer agency. He said 75 per cent of the American people would prefer reform of existing consumer agencies to creation of the ACA, the poll indicated.

AMERICAN STATESMAN  
Austin, Texas  
May 7, 1975

## 47 Unneeded Agency

The U.S. Senate is debating this week a bill to create a federal consumer protection agency which President Gerald Ford has said he will veto.

Senate sponsors hope they have the votes to over-ride the expected veto.

consumers involving apparent law violations or other anti-consumer practices.

If laws and regulations already on the books were enforced, the consumer would have protection aplenty, aside from the ancient



# IRON DUKE

WATERLOO COURIER (Cir. - 53,337)  
Waterloo, Iowa  
May 7, 1975

## Costly protection

With the liberal Congress in Washington running wild, it is rapidly getting to the place where consumers won't be able to afford all the "protection" they are going to get from federal bureaucrats.

It is bad enough that Ralph Nader's consumer activist organizations have blackjacked our elected representatives into creating a host of "protection" agencies, each with a huge staff to enforce a wide assortment of regulations.

Now Congress is about to create a super-bureaucracy to watch over all the other consumer agencies.

ONCE CALLED the Consumer Protection

LEDGER-STAR (E - 104,000)  
Norfolk, Virginia  
May 6, 1975

## ***Dubious consumer aid***

The proposed Consumer Advocacy Agency advocated by many, perhaps a majority, in Congress has a noble purpose, but we share President Ford's doubts about the means proposed for accomplishing the end.

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington with its attendant costs of \$60

the innumerable conflicting interests, "the consumer" as an all-embracing entity is a figment of Ralph Nader's imagination. What "protects" one consumer may well work against another.



Still, even if there is no such thing as a single consumer interest, individual

NEWSDAY

Hempstead, New York

May 6, 1975

## **Consumers Have Lots of Help**

President Ford has come out against a federal consumer protection agency. I applaud his position on this issue. The last thing we need is another regulatory agency, abusing its power, and seeking to create for itself a permanent place in the federal budget.

However, right here in New York State, Gov. Carey is pushing for a "bigger and better" consumer

AMERICAN (E - 42,000)  
Waterbury, Connecticut  
May 6, 1975

## Needless Consumer Agency

Once again U.S. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's controversial bill on consumer protection is before the Senate, and once again it should be defeated.

The proposed Agency of Consumer

stands now, collective bargaining agreements and labor disputes are exempted from attention by the proposed agency. U.S. Sen. Lowell Weicker feels labor contracts should be covered in order to provide fuller consumer protection.

NEWS-JOURNAL (D - 40,679  
Mansfield, Ohio S - 48,973)  
May 5, 1975

# Battle Lines Drawn On Consumer Agency

**PRESIDENT FORD** told the U. S. Chamber of Commerce what it wanted to hear.

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington," he told the group at its annual meeting in Washington last week. The bureaucracy he was talking about was the proposed consumer protection agency.

The President pointed out the

studies and supported by a small army of lawyers, accountants, engineers and scientists to present their side.

The consumer, on the other hand, has no one to argue in his behalf.

"The cost of the new agency would be relatively very small when you consider the large amounts of money it could save," Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) has said.

STANDARD-OBSERVER  
Irwin, Pennsylvania  
(Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area)  
May 5, 1975

# *New agency is unpopular*

American consumers, by a 75 per cent majority, are opposed to the creation of a new, independent consumer agency within the federal government, according to a nationwide survey of public attitudes released by Opinion Research Corporation.

The survey found that 13 per cent of consumers would support efforts now under way in Congress to enact legislation establishing the Agency for Consumer Advocacy, which proponents of the bill say will give the consumer a larger voice in helping shape government policy.

SUN-TIMES  
Chicago, Illinois  
May 5, 1975

## Letters:      **Against consumer agency**

I am opposed to the creation of a new consumer agency advocated by Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) and several members of Congress. This will create more government spending in the form of new jobs, new budgets and new hidden expenses.

There are already agencies such as the Civil Defense agency, now existing under another name, and the Selective Service System, that are not clear as to their functions at this

EXAMINER  
San Francisco, California  
May 4, 1975

### **Ford Opposes Consumer Agency**

President Ford told 3000 cheering members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that he opposed a congressional proposal for a consumer protection

# No More Protection, Please

## *By Robert Clerc*

SOONER OR LATER, someone's going to have to drive the point home to government that the people are protected just about as much as they can stand or afford. Further layers of bureaucratic intrusion on the lives of the general public will do nothing good for the citizen's peace of mind, respect for government, or pocketbook.

BY NOW, recent experiences should be sufficient to cause publicity-hungry politicians to seek out other ways of bringing themselves to the public's attention. After all, the consumer is certainly aware that the

For those inclined to nibble at that line, let's straighten one thing out right now: All this benevolent concern by government for the comfort and safety of the consumer does not come cheap. Get down to cases and the costs are more than most would elect to pay for the kind and quality of service provided.

THE WHOLE BUSINESS of government regulatory agencies began in 1887 with the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The commission was supposed to protect shippers from rail monopolies and Congress was so impressed with its own

I, FOR ONE, don't want any part of the system as it is presently constituted. It offends me that I paid for an annoying ignition interlock system on a new car last year because the government was concerned that I might not buckle up for safety, and now can live with it or pay to have it disconnected. I can't say that I've been impressed with the costs that are passed along to me, in taxes and higher product costs, so that bureaucrats can experiment with new programs and directives. I do not look forward to seeking comfort or assistance on a toll-free hot line to Columbus because I depend on

TRIBUNE (D - 681,759  
Chicago, Illinois S - 1,151,590)  
May 3, 1975

## *We're 'protected' enough, thanks*

President Ford is on solid ground in urging Congress to reject the proposed consumer protection agency and to repeal the so-called fair trade laws that restrict price competition.

The last thing we need is another bureaucratic agency in Washington, even one with the lofty purpose of protecting consumers. The consumer is supposed to be protected already by the Federal Trade Commission, which warns us against tar and nicotine in cigarettes; by the Food and Drug Administration,

mined by the retailer's cost and the amount of profit he wanted to make on the item. The development of discount stores after World War II is directly attributable to the fair trade laws. Many manufacturers — most recently Sony—have already given up trying to fix their prices. The sooner all "fair trade" laws are dead, the better.

What worries consumers the most, polls still show, is the fear of inflation; and nearly all of these efforts in their behalf end up costing them more in prices or in taxes or both.

INTERNATIONAL GAZETTE (W - 400)  
Buffalo, New York  
May 3, 1975



*the*

# *Ronald Reagan*

*column*

The bureaucrats, aided by Ralph Nader and a few determined liberal senators, are out to fleece the taxpayers by creating yet another federal bureaucracy.

This one will be called the Agency for Consumer Advocacy if Senate Bill 200 goes all the way through Congress and is signed by the President. It is a rehash of the Consumer Protection Agency bill defeated last year — and that one might as well have been named

TIMES-DISPATCH (M - 140,000  
Richmond, Virginia S - 195,000)  
May 3, 1975

*'I'd Just Love Ya to Death!'*



GRUNDY CENTER SPOKESMAN  
Grundy Center, Iowa  
May 3, 1975

# Farm Bureau opposes Consumer Protection Act

Iowa Farm Bureau President J. Merrill Anderson sent letters to Iowa Senators Dick Clark and John Culver last week urging them to oppose the Consumer Protection Act of 1975 (S-200). The measure is expected to come up this week for debate.

The act would create an Agency for Consumer Advocacy which would have the power to intercede at the policy and

government actions.

The President asked agency heads to examine the specific efforts they are making now to represent the consumer in their decisions and activities, and to work with Virginia Knauer, special assistant for consumer affairs, in instituting additional efforts which the agencies can undertake to better represent consumer interests.

President Ford said, "In view of the

TELEGRAPH (D - 22,523)  
Nashua, New Hampshire  
(Manchester Metropolitan Area)  
May 3, 1975

## A Super Agency?

The proposed Agency for Consumer Protection would prove more of an aggravation than an asset.

If Congress does some hard thinking independent of the powerful, self-styled consumer lobbies, it will reject the concept of a super agency.

Moreover, some analysts are quick to point out that all consumers are bound to suffer higher prices as the result of excessive federal regulation.

They argue that further red tape would compound the existing complications of

NEWS (M - 55,000 S - 65,000)  
Savannah, Georgia  
May 3, 1975

## No Need for Agency

**STRONG SUPPORT** exists in Congress for some kind of federal "consumer" agency. Its supposed purpose would be to protect consumers from dishonest business practices.

The theory may sound good to some, but in practice it would only create a new piece of costly and burdensome bureaucracy. It was for this reason that President Ford recently stated his opposition to the plan.

laws against such dealings are already on the books. The creation of a new bureau would simply affirm the notion that most businessmen cannot be trusted to produce decent goods.

**THIS OUTLOOK** is an unwarranted slander on the productive individuals who keep our economy moving. A recent poll by Opinion Research Corp. found that nearly 90 per cent of all

NEWS (S. W. - 10,112)  
Westport, Connecticut  
(Bridgeport Metropolitan Area)  
May 2, 1975

## Closing their ears?

News emanating from Washington indicates the Ribicoff-Weicker bill establishing a brand new federal bureaucracy, the Agency for Consumer Advocacy, has a good chance for passage this session.

This proves once again that the legislators elected to represent the people do not listen to those they represent, but push ahead with unnecessary and expensive proposals such as this, digging even deeper into the taxpayer's pocket.

Despite the contention of Connecticut's two senators that the consumer needs more "protecting," a nationwide survey conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation shows that 75 per cent of the consumers polled oppose the creation of this new bureaucracy. The poll included more than 2,000 persons from all sections of the country and covered all age groups.

The poll also showed that more than half of the 13 per cent who originally favored such an agency withdrew

The author points out that Americans today increasingly find their lives regulated by decrees from bureaucrats who, in effect, are accountable to no one.

His article suggests that Congress should reappraise each federal agency with a view to abolishing those which have outlived their usefulness. Certainly it would be absurd to establish new bureaucracies, such as the ACA, whose usefulness at the outset is highly uncertain, to say the least.

This accentuates our earlier point — the public neither needs nor wants another costly, wasteful bureaucratic agency such as that proposed by Senators Ribicoff and Weicker.

The opinion poll also proves it is getting more difficult to fool the public with political platitudes. Everyone but Connecticut's senators realizes this country does not need another federal bureaucracy to meddle even more in our lives and in so doing to spend more of the

AMARILLO GLOBE-TIMES  
Amarillo, Texas  
May 2, 1975

# AMARILLO GLOBE-TIMES

JAMES L. WHYTE  
Vice President and General Manager

WESLEY S. IZZARD  
Editor-in-Chief

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Page 34

Friday, May 2, 1975

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## Untying the Knots

"All too often, the federal government promulgates new rules and regulations which raise costs — and consumer prices at the same time — to achieve small or limited social benefits."

Amen, amen.

The statement above was made by President Ford in an address earlier this week to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in Washington. The President

MODERN GROCER (Cir. 18,116)  
370 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
May 2, 1975

MODERN GROCER, MAY 2, 1975 • 22

## Ford Opposes a Consumer Agency

President Ford announced his opposition to legislation pending in Congress the last six years that would establish a Federal consumer protection agency.

With the Senate expected to begin debate on the bill this coming week, Ford said in a letter to Congressional committee chairmen that he had

LEADER (W - 2,300)  
Tremonton, Utah  
May 1, 1975

## RONALD REAGAN REPORTS

# *Please, not another one!!!*

66169  
By RONALD REAGAN  
Copley News Service

The bureaucrats, aided by Ralph Nader and a few determined liberal senators, are out to fleece the taxpayers by creating yet another federal bureaucracy.

This one will be called the Agency for Consumer Adv-



bill's sponsors think the new agency, if created, would do much real good, since it won't plow any really new ground.

What it will do is please some left-liberal constituents here and there, as well as the professional consumerists who thrive on finding more and more ways to

ists and the politicians who created it.

CREATING A new Agency for Consumer Advocacy, when already there are many of them but under different names, is a little like the situation a retail chain might find itself in if one of its own stores began to

NEWS-EXAMINER (W - 2,044)  
Montpelier, Idaho  
May 1, 1975

862  
**RONALD REAGAN REPORTS**

***Please, not another one!!!***

By **RONALD REAGAN**  
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DEMOCRAT-HERALD (D - 18,447)  
Albany, Oregon  
May 1, 1975

## Are gains worth costs?

862  
President Gerald Ford plans to call the heads of 10 federal regulatory agencies together soon. He wants to discuss with them whether the gains to be gotten from so-called consumer protection regulations and laws are worth the costs.

Ford didn't present many specifics,

Others don't do nearly as much good and poke at social change at disproportionate economic expense.

At this point, though, it is less important to detail the problems than it is for people in government to be thinking in terms of costs of social programs compared with their benefits. To the extent that President

**A Political View**

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**Another Agency to  
Help Consumers?**



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**John D. Lofton Jr.**

**R**EGARDLESS of how the Congress votes, President Ford has demonstrated his seriousness in holding down the size of government by announcing his opposition to a new federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA).

In a letter to Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Dem-Conn.), chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee, Mr. Ford stated that...

federal government programs, spending hundreds of millions of dollars annually, to look after the consumer's interests. It has been estimated there are 250 consumer protection offices at the state and local government level plus hundreds of private groups, spending billions of dollars on consumer-related activities.

y  
02

## Anti-Consumer Agency

If Mrs. Virginia Knauer wants to earn her keep as head of the federal Office of Consumer Affairs, she can take the stump in opposition to creation of a new monster called the Agency for Consumer Advocacy.

Mrs. Knauer is understood to favor the proposal, but has maintained a discreet silence since President Ford made his opposition clear, as well as he should have.

Consumers need and deserve protection.

In addition to the more than 1,000 programs already applicable, how come a massive 75 per cent prefer making "the agencies we now have more effective" to adding a new one? That finding, by the respected Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J., was included in a poll which found only 10 per cent of Americans favored "setting up an additional consumer agency above all the others." A large majority of the public, in the poll reported that it is being treated

# Consumer bill is a deception on the public

*179*  
As unemployment rises and the purchasing power of the dollar shrinks, it is more essential than ever that consumers obtain full satisfaction for every dollar spent. Unfortunately, many misguided efforts to "protect" consumers do more harm than good.

pensive new bureaucracy to represent the consumer interest before federal regulatory agencies; yet it would be as far distant and aloof as dozens of other agencies in Washington.

The act entrusts a single individual—the administrator, whoever he turns out to be—to speak for

protect people in automobiles.

"Now, after hundreds of millions of dollars went down a rathole, the Congress has decided that seat-belt interlocks were not such a good thing after all. Presumably, not worth it to customers. The decision on the so-called 'airbags,' which may

# Congressional Report

1792  
Consumer Protection Agency senate bill 200 has been opposed by President Ford who calls it too costly and has asked existing agencies to take over the work of representing consumers. AFBF has opposed this bill in the past and still does this year. Contact your representatives because this bill would create a super-agency which would have the right to pre-empt existing agencies such as USDA.

Estate Tax- House of Representatives number 1793- It would increase existing \$60,000 estate exemption to \$200,000. Raises marital deduction from 50 percent of adjusted gross estate to \$100,000 plus 50 percent of the total value of adjusted gross estate. Bill established procedures where by farm estates could elect to be assessed at their value for farming purposes rather than at values for other higher uses- if such is elected, estate must remain in farming or ranching for 5 year period of higher value will be assessed and tax collected.

Gun control advocates are back at it again demanding in some cases the outright ban on handguns and in other cases banning the sale of handguns

FARM & RANCH (M - 9,172)  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
May, 1975



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## No Need for Super Bureaucracy To Protect U.S. Consumers

Ever since 1961 when the late Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., introduced a bill to establish a Department of Consumers, proponents of a giant consumer advocate agency have been at work. But the idea of imposing another federal bureaucracy on the already overcrowded consumer protection endeavor is as faulty today as it was 14 years ago.

these and other existing federal, state and local consumer police have failed miserably.

At the very least it is implied that a super-protector must be created to ride herd on the established guardians. But the record does not justify such an assumption. Old line agencies have by no means been perfect but neither have they been the massive failures CPA sponsors