

February 6, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Seventeen Federal government agencies will hold formal public hearings in Washington, D. C. during the week of February 23 on proposed Consumer Representation Plans. The hearings will allow comments from a cross-section of the American community.

In most cases the hearings will be scheduled from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m., and 6 p. m. to 9 p. m. The evening sessions have been scheduled to allow citizens to participate after work. The specific times, dates, and locations for each meeting will be published in the Federal Register early next week to allow consumer leaders and interested members of the public an opportunity to testify and to present specific, substantive comments on the plans directly to the department and agency policy makers. Each meeting will be chaired by an Assistant Secretary level hearing officer for the agency involved.

The period for public comment has been extended from February 24 to March 1. This change has been brought about by the interest of over 12,000 citizens representing organizations who participated in the nine White House Conferences held across the country between January 13 and January 30, and a number of citizens around the country who have expressed their interest by submitting written comments.

The Washington meetings will reflect a change in format from the meetings held across the country. They will have a formal hearing structure which will allow both consumer organizations and the public a further opportunity to make their views known. For further information on these meetings, contact John B. Shlaes, Director of White House Conferences, Office of Public Liaison (456-7090), or Martin Petersen, Director of External Liaison, Office of Consumer Affairs (254-8000).

Copies of scheduled hearings are available in the Press Office.

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