

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Consumer Protection Agency - Newspaper Editorials (3)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NEWS (E - 650,000 S - 850,000)
Detroit, Michigan
April 30, 1975

U.S. regulation

A case of overkill

The ancient warning against the evil of federal regulation begins to sound less like conservative dogma and more like a prophecy come true.

When President Ford echoed the warning this week, he was not talking about a figment of Herbert Hoover's imagination. Federal regulatory practices have taken a stranglehold on the

last year, because of safety and environmental standards dictated by the government, a typical passenger car cost the American motorist \$320 more than he would otherwise have paid.

These costs included expenditures for such things as seat belt systems and head restraints which many motorists didn't want and considered

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL
Syracuse, New York
April 30, 1975 (E - 127,862)

A waste

The country has protection for the consumer coming out of every pocket of government.

With \$161 million being spent each year to assure the safety of drugs and the edibility of poultry and meats, and another \$228 million going for the inspection of job hazards and occupa-

NEWS TRIBUNE (D - 54,153)
Woodbridge, New Jersey
(New Brunswick Metropolitan Area)
April 30, 1975

Questionable 'protection'

President Ford this week sounded a strong warning against government "stampeding" into the writing of new federal regulations on such social issues as job safety, the environment and consumer protection.

Speaking at a meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce, he said the question was not whether the government is interested in these

trucking, airlines, utilities and banking.

He said many of the regulations are obsolete and levy a hidden tax on the American people by costing more than they provide in benefits.

"There are sound estimates," he said, "that government regulations have added billions of dollars to business and consumer costs each

COURIER (D - 7,565)
Lincoln, Illinois
April 30, 1975

Editorially Speaking...

NOT IN NEED OF ANY MORE

While strongly supporting consumer protection, the Business Roundtable is opposed to enactment of consumer legislation pending in Congress. It would create a new Agency for Consumer Advocacy. The Roundtable is a non-profit organization comprising some 150 major companies with a goal of developing policy recommendations on significant business, economic and social issues, as well as to foster the exchange of these ideas.

Opposition to the proposed new agency springs from the belief it would ultimately prove to be a disservice to consumers and create large and unnecessary burdens for companies. If, as claimed, existing agencies are not functioning as they should, it

UNION LEADER (D - 65,000)
Manchester, New Hampshire
April 29, 1975

JOHN D. LOFTON, JR.

The Watchdog Problem

Regardless of how the Congress votes — and the bill should be coming up soon — 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).

Ford turned thumbs down on Ralph Nader's brainchild, declaring: "I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington, with its attendant costs of \$60 million for the

first three years and hundreds of additional federal employees . . . "It is my conviction that the best way to protect the consumer is to improve the existing institutions of government, not to add more government."

The arguments against a new federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy are both formidable and compelling:

In his budget for fiscal 1976, President Ford notes that just for consumer safety alone, outlays of \$461 million are being requested for the de-

Business regulations overhaul?

Ford opposes buyer protection unit

169
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford declared strong opposition Monday to a ~~proposed~~ consumer protection agency and called for overhaul of many federal business regulations.

The President told the 63rd meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States that "government regulations have added billions of unnecessary

said, "my administration is working hard to identify and eliminate those regulations which now cost the American people more than they provide in benefits."

The President said he soon will convene what he termed an unprecedented meeting of the commissioners of the 10 major independent regulatory agencies. Joining

the imperative need to foster greater competition in the public interest and the equally imperative need to consider the inflationary effects of all proposed new regulations," he stated.

The audience interrupted his 30-minute speech 13 times, with the greatest applause coming when the President declared he has asked Congress to postpone action on a new federal

need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington with its attendant costs of \$61 million over three years and additional federal employees," the President said.

He added: "The question is not whether we want to do something about noise and safety — but whether making changes in our regulations would make sense in terms of costs and added benefits gained."

STAR (D - 231,118 S - 374,569)
Indianapolis, Indiana
April 29, 1975

Ford Opposes Agency To Protect Consumer

Washington (AP) — President Ford declared strong opposition yesterday to a proposed consumer protection agency and called for overhaul of many Federal business regulations.

The President told the 63d



30-minute speech 13 times, with the greatest applause coming when the President declared that he has asked Congress to postpone action on legislation which would create a new Federal agency for consumer advocacy.

STANDARD-EXAMINER (D - 41,208
Ogden, Utah S - 41,661)
April 29, 1975

EDITORIALS

Ford Would Curb Federal Agencies

Gerald R. Ford has selected a popular theme—that of curbing the growth and regulatory power of federal agencies—for his campaign for election to the presidency in 1976.

Mr. Ford spoke to the 63rd annual convention of the U.S. Chamber

“The question is not whether we want to do something about noise and safety, but whether making changes in our regulations would make sense in terms of costs and added benefits gained. All too often,

The Herald Journal's Opinion

167 *Bureaucracy Burgeons*

We have a problem in Washington, D.C.

We have too many elected officials there who think that the way to solve problems is to create new agencies of

According to the bill which would establish this agency, the ACA would operate largely beyond the control of the executive and legislative branches. Only three areas of American life would be exempted from its

TELEGRAM (D - 21,920)
Clarksburg, West Virginia
April 29, 1975

Is This Something New?

A recent survey of American consumers by the Opinion Research Corporation indicates that 75 per cent favor improving existing federal consumer protection

MESSENGER (D - 7,220)
Mayfield, Kentucky
April 29, 1975

LOCAL EDITORIALS

Consumer Protection?

By Mayfield-Graves Co.
Chamber of Commerce

When the Consumer Protection Act "S.200", recently renamed the agency for consumer advocacy, comes to the Senate floor in April we can expect a lot of pontificating about the way the American

Food prices rise slowly, not quickly

By MELISSA LANGSTON
TIMES Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Food prices are still climbing but the U. S. Department of Agriculture notes they are only going up half as fast as they were last year at this time. USDA's predictions for spring food supplies and prices, however, are not very en-

all-time low, so the price of lamb will continue to climb.

Poultry producers are feeling the pinch of feed prices, and turkey and broilers will probably be more expensive this spring. Eggs will be the "best buy" in the poultry market this spring, according to USDA, because they will be more plentiful — but still

Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, is warning consumers to watch out for products which are supposed to increase cars' gas mileage.

Rising gasoline prices have inspired a large number of questionable automotive retro-fit devices. These devices are usually

increase mileage up to 25 per cent, a spark plug that would make a car get eight more miles per gallon, and a gizmo to make cars run on water.

President Ford asked Congress last week to postpone further action on a bill to create a new federal Agency for Consumer

STAR-NEWS (E - 300,000
Washington, D.C. S - 320,000)
April 29, 1975

Regulate the Regulators

Since the Interstate Commerce Commission was established nearly 90 years ago to clamp down on the robber barons of railroading, government regulatory agencies have proliferated across the spectrum of American activity and have produced so many contradictory and waste-inducing rules and regulations that the time has come to begin regulating the regulators.

The White House estimates that unnecessary and ineffective government regulations are costing the average family \$2,000 a year, which amounts to a total cost of about \$130 billion a year for all Americans. The figure may be open to challenge, for it is necessarily based on estimates. But even if it is only half that, or a

edged the problem recently. Said Lewis Engman, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission: "Most regulated industries have become federal protectorates, living in a cozy world of cost-plus, safely protected from the ugly specters of competition, efficiency and innovation."

Every time a move is made to breathe some fresh air into the system, the special interests and their protectors who sit on congressional committees and elsewhere in the government smother the attempt at reform. Last fall, President Ford asked Congress to establish a "national commission on regulatory reform." It hasn't been done. Last year, the President proposed that Congress enact the Financial Institutions Act, which was aimed at encouraging

Ford recommends the abolition of fair-trade laws

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford Monday attacked a proposed consumer-protection agency as a waste of money and called instead for abolishing price regulations to make Americans' dollars go farther.

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington with its attendant cost — about \$60 million over the next three years — and hundreds of additional federal employees," Ford said, referring to the proposed consumer agency.

An audience of 3,000 persons attending the

postpone action on legislation which would create a new federal agency for consumer advocacy," Ford said.

Ford advocated a repeal of fair-trade laws that keep prices at a certain level.

He also proposed to eliminate many of the 5,146 different government forms that the public must fill out and called for a general streamlining of the federal bureaucracy.

"While we are all accustomed to the open debate on the government's budget, far too little attention has been focused on the ways

have added billions of unnecessary dollars to business and consumer costs every year."

He said Congress should end fair-trade laws, which allow manufacturers to set minimum prices for items they sell. Discount stores have been trying for years to overturn these state laws so that they could sell at lower prices.

"Federal law now permits states to allow manufacturers to dictate the price of their products, and drives up the cost of such items as books, cosmetics, shoes and hardware."

The groups made their position known in a letter to Virginia H. Knauer, Ford's consumer adviser, after meeting with her Monday to discuss Ford's call to find ways to make existing government agencies more responsive to consumer problems.

WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY (82,766)
7 East 12th Street
New York, New York 10003
April 29, 1975

Ford attacks planned watchdog unit as costly to consumer

By RICHARD WIGHTMAN

WASHINGTON (FNS) — President Ford Monday stepped up his attack on costly government regulation, warning he would oppose any move by Congress to set up a special consumer watchdog agency and urging lawmakers swiftly to kill state fair-trade laws.

In a hard-hitting speech here, Ford emphasized the theme

statute books of many states. "These depression-era laws, which cost consumers an estimated \$2 billion a year, should be laid to rest alongside the NRA blue eagle of the same period," Ford maintained.

As for the Consumer Protection Agency — the consumer "advocacy" bill which has broad support in Congress — Ford insisted the plan should be shelved indefinitely.

"I do not believe we need yet another federal bureaucracy in

Ford claims consumer agency 'waste of money'

By RICHARD H. GROWALD

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford today attacked a proposed consumer protection agency as a waste of money and called instead for abolishing price regulations to make Americans' dollars go farther.

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington with its attendant cost — about \$16 million over the next three years — and hundreds of additional federal employees," Ford said, referring to the proposed consumer agency.

An audience of 3,000 persons attending the 63rd annual meeting of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce interrupted Ford's half-hour speech 15 times with applause and gave him two standing ovations.

"I have ordered action by the executive departments and agencies to make major improvements in the quality of service to the consumer, and I have asked the Congress to postpone action on legislation which would create a new federal agency for consumer advocacy," Ford said.

Ford advocated a repeal of fair trade laws that keep prices at a certain level.

He also proposed to eliminate many of the 5,146 different government forms which the public must fill out and called for a general streamlining of the federal bureaucracy.

"While we are all accustomed to the open debate on the government's budget, far too little attention has been focused on the ways in which government regulations levy a hidden tax on the American people," Ford said.

"In the nearly 90 years since we created the first federal regulatory commission, we have built a system of regulation which abounds with contradictions and excesses — all to the detriment of the public. There are sound estimates that government regulations have added billions of unnecessary dollars to business and consumer costs every year."

He said Congress should end fair

*Actual figure in
the President's speech
was \$60 million.*

John Lofton Jr., writes

We don't need more government

By JOHN D. LOFTON JR.

WASHINGTON— Regardless of how the Congress votes—and the bill should be coming up soon—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 Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, D.-Conn., chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee, Ford turned thumbs down on Ralph Nader's brainchild, declaring:

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy or

Kathy Camp, an information specialist at the General Services Administration's Consumer Information Center, says the government now publishes 250 publications devoted to consumerism and information for consumers.

In his budget for fiscal 1976, President Ford notes that just for consumer safety alone, outlays of \$461 million are being requested for the development of standards to assure the safeness of drugs, medical devices, vaccines, blood banks and meat and poultry in interstate and

be divorced from political pressure any more than say, the Interstate Commerce Commission. Are we, in a generation, to hear a call for yet another agency, this time to 'police' the Agency for Consumer Advocacy?" Thirdly, while polls of consumers show varying degrees of dissatisfaction, I know of none that say the solution to these problems is a superagency in Washington. Besides my conversations with Ms. Young, Ms. Camp and Mr. Dawson, I also talked with: Rick Creecy, a project developer at the National Consumer Congress; Joe

The only poll directly on this subject was a nationwide survey released recently by Opinion Research Corp. It shows 75 per cent of American consumers opposed to the ACA.

As always, those advocating more of the hair of the dog that is biting us as the solution to the problem, are wrong. In this case, the problem is the dog, and the dog is Big Government.

And President Ford is to be applauded for doing his part to put this mastiff on a leash

HERALD
Plainview, Texas
April 27, 1975

Other Side Of Coin

Take almost any position you wish and the chances are good that you'll find a poll that supports it.

Even so, it is encouraging to occasionally read the results of polls and surveys that are the exact opposite of what we previously have been told.

Take consumerism, for instance. Americans have been told so often by so many that consumers, nine times out of 10, are victims of business that many merely accept it as fact even though they may have no personal reason for such complaint.

* * *

But do they want a super government agency to protect them? In a nationwide survey of public atti-

POST (D - 14,982 S - 15,139)
Vicksburg, Mississippi
April 26, 1975

Consumers Prefer To Do It Themselves

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,

Asked about present federal agencies in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Thus given the choice between creating a new agency or making existing ones more effective, they strongly favored improving present agencies by 75 per cent to 13 per cent, as noted.

The survey also found that 27 per

HERALD (D - 8,771)
Uniontown, Pennsylvania
April 26, 1975

Do It Themselves

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 to a survey conducted in New

N.J., conducted the survey, which was commissioned by The Business Roundtable. A total of 2,038 people of voting age were interviewed in their homes between Jan. 10 and Feb. 3, 1975. All sections of the country and all population groups were represented.

One would have guessed otherwise from listening to the complaints of some consumer activists, but the survey found that the public is generally satisfied with the consumer protection efforts of existing government agencies. Almost eight out of 10 consumers feel they are

EXAMINER (E - 185,000)
San Francisco, California
April 26, 1975

Why Ford opposes new agency

100,000 protect the consumer

Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — President Ford is moving into another confrontation with Congress over who knows best how to protect the consumers' interests. It's destined to be one of this session's hardest battles.

Bills creating a Consumer

consideration of consumers protection bills pending receipt of his reform proposals.

The President objects to spending \$20 million a year for three years to hire lawyers to appear before regulatory agencies to represent exactly what the agencies

rates and thereby increase competition.

The average American family pays \$2,000 a year — a national total of \$130 billion — in excessive and unnecessary transportation costs, White House surveys show.

Fair trade laws under

dictate retail prices are another Ford target. He says these laws cost consumers \$2 billion a year in higher prices.

Proponents of the independent Consumer Protection Agency say the old-line regulatory agencies are staffed by men from industry and protect the indus-

SPIRIT (D - 6,750)
Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania
April 26, 1975

Two More Bureaus Needed?

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 legislature was on the brink of creating a new government bureau with cabinet status to protect the consumer. It was supposed to represent

asked opposed the national consumer agency. A pool by the National Federation of Independent Business shows 84 percent against such legislation.

Government at the state and federal levels especially, are already loaded with bureaucrats who are supposed to be serving and protecting the people. There are so many that "hot lines" have to be

An agency for consumer advocacy?

Hair of the dog isn't the cure-all for big government

By JOHN D. LOFTON Jr.

REGARDLESS OF HOW the Congress votes — and the bill should be coming up soon — 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 Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee, Ford turned thumbs down on Ralph Nader's brainchild, declaring:

"I do not believe that we need yet another federal bureaucracy in Washington, with its attendant costs of \$80 million for the first three years and hundreds of additional federal employees, in order to achieve better consumer representation and protection in government.

"At a time when we are trying to cut down on both the size and cost of government, it would

According to Pat Young, a research assistant in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Consumer Affairs, there are consumer complaint offices within the various departments and agencies of the U.S. Government.

Kathy Camp, an information specialist at the General Services Administration's Consumer Information Center, says the government now publishes 250 publications devoted to consumerism and information for consumers.

In his budget for fiscal 1976, President Ford notes that just for consumer safety alone, outlays of \$461 million are being requested for the development of standards to assure the safeness of drugs, medical devices, vaccines, blood banks and meat and poultry in interstate and foreign commerce. For federal occupational and safety and health programs, \$228 million is being requested.

IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, Joe Dawson, an aide to President Ford's consumer affairs advisor, Mr. William

not as susceptible to 'capture' by organized interest groups as other agencies?

"It is surely as tempting a target and it cannot be divorced from political pressure any more than say, the Interstate Commerce Commission. Are we, in a generation, to hear a call for yet another agency, this time to 'police' the Agency for Consumer Advocacy?"

Thirdly, while polls of consumers show varying degrees of dissatisfaction, I know of none that say the solution to these problems is a superagency in Washington.

Besides my conversations with Ms. Young, Ms. Camp and Mr. Dawson, I also talked with Rick Creecy, a project developer at the National Consumer Congress; Joe Smith, director of the Consumer Information Center; Pam Richard, assistant to the director for communications for the 200,000-member Consumers Union; Carol Foreman, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America; and Jay Schmiedeknecht, director of the survey of consumer attitudes at the University of

NEWS TRIBUNE (D - 13,560
Fort Pierce, Fla. S - 14,066)
April 25, 1975

Consumer Bill Is Opposed

St. Lucie County's Chamber of Commerce is calling upon area businessmen to contact Florida's two U. S. Senators and urge their opposition to a bill expected to be voted upon next week which would create a federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy (A.C.A.)

"Our organization has long been opposed to a federal A.C.A.," explained Chamber

Ronald Reagan

Don't Need Another Bureau



167/169
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 the Consumer Ripoff Bill.

There are existing federal agencies with the responsibility for preventing consumers from

which, till now at least, have served us best when left pretty much along.

There is scant evidence of public clamor for the agency. In fact, a recent poll showed a majority of Americans believe they have ample access to redress of market grievances now.

Since consumers don't speak with a single voice, critics of the bill ask how can a federal agency develop a consensus? The answer is, it can't.

It will, instead, reflect the opinions of the bureaucrats, the more strident consumerists 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 do poorly. In that case, it would take a good look at pricing, inventory, displays, advertising and personnel, and then make changes. What it certainly wouldn't do is open a competing store across the street.

Yet, that's just what Congress is about to do — all at your expense. *Carley News Service*

NEWS-CHRONICLE (S. W. 5,178)
Shippenburg, Pennsylvania
(Harrisburg Metropolitan Area)
April 25, 1975

Not another bureau, please!

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 legislature was on the brink of creating a new government bureau with Cabinet status to protect the consumer. It was supposed to represent the interests of the farmer, utility customer and citizens in general. The bill for such service would begin at \$200,000 in

Protection Agency Act of 1975. It is aimed at protecting the consumer against poor products and service. It would cost \$60 million to start.

There is a big question whether the people need any consumer bureaus, but certainly they don't need two. Moreover, the report is that citizens don't want such bureaucratic representation.

One survey revealed 75 per cent of those asked opposed the national consumer agency. A poll by the National Federation

protect the consumer. Poor quality products and service are readily rejected by consumers. They don't buy. That's bad for business.

The consumer is his own advocate in a way that gets results, usually without red tape.

Consumers can protect themselves cheaper.

Williamsport Sun-Gazette

UNION (6xW - 7,810)
Grass Valley, California
April 25, 1975

Another bureaucracy

149
BY RONALD REAGAN

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 the Consumer

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 tighten the federal vise on your life. These are the folks who are obsessed with the need to control every aspect of the marketplace, leaving little or nothing to the cycles of supply and demand which, till now at least, have served us

ARGUS (D - 15,326 S - 15,263)
Fremont-Newark, California
(San Francisco Metro Area)
April 25, 1975

Ronald Reagan

Consumer protection? Or just another ripoff?

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Doing It Themselves

NEWS (D - 8,891)
Hillsdale, Michigan
April 25, 1975

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

they are being treated fairly by the government.

Asked about present federal agencies in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Thus given the choice between creating a new agency or making existing ones more effective, they strongly favored improving present agencies by 75 per cent to 13 per cent, as noted.

The survey also found that 27

TIMES (D - 39,750)
Reading, Pennsylvania
April 25, 1975

Little support

Legislating by public opinion poll is not necessarily a good way to run a government. But it is not a bad idea for legislators to have a fairly well-tuned ear to the ground to be certain they do not go too far astray from their constituents' wishes.

Thus, when a nationwide poll conducted by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J., finds those

MORNING JOURNAL-REGISTER
(D - 56,071 S - 74,348)
Springfield, Illinois
April 25, 1975

Making agencies work

ONE WAY TO shake up a lethargic government agency is to confront it with the prospect of giving some of its responsibilities to another agency. The proposal to establish a new Consumer

Thus President Ford could recommend to Congress the other day that it drop a proposal to set up a new \$60 million Consumer Agency. Existing boards and

ROCHESTER BULLETIN (E - 33,180)

Rochester, Minnesota

April 25, 1975

Consumer Advocacy Agency Bill Really Is Consumer Rip-off

By RONALD REAGAN
Copley News Service Columnist

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

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EXAMINER (E - 185,000)
San Francisco, California
April 25, 1975

Ronald Reagan

Making a new bureaucracy

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✓ Consumer Agency Unneeded

By RONALD REAGAN

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POST (D - 253,924 Sat - 215,406
Denver, Colorado Sun - 352-434)
April 25, 1975

EDITORIALS

Americans Oppose Super-Agency

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.

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Thus given the choice between creating a new agency or making existing ones more effective, they strongly favored improving present agencies by 75 per cent to 13 per

PRINCETON HERALD (W - 475)
Princeton, Texas

TIMES (W - 1,325)
Farmersville, Texas

(both Dallas Metropolitan Area)

April 24, 1975

PI FEATURES

EDITORIAL

NADER NADIR

Consumer activist Ralph Nader keeps reaching new lows. And if the American people don't start urging their Congressmen to quit giving so much attention to Mr. Nader, things will get so low you won't any longer recognize the United States as a free country.

A local businessman came into the office the other day to order a rubber stamp. He must use it to stamp a sticker to be placed on lawn mowers he has repaired to be certain that the engine settings

Editorials

Busybody We Don't Need:

A New Consumer Agency

BEACON JOURNAL (D - 173,224
Akron, Ohio S - 210,039)
April 24, 1975

DESPITE an April 17 letter from President Ford to Congress opposing the creation of an independent federal agency to represent consumers before other agencies and the courts, work on the legislation has been steadily proceeding.

It would be unrealistic to expect Congress to stop consideration of a measure simply because the President expressed opposition. It should not, however, be unreasonable to expect the legislators to take a careful look at the proposal to see what real justification could be found for it.

Instead, the reports from Washington in-

protection agency between fiscal 1976 and fiscal 1978. And there is even less justification when the chief function of the agency will be to nose around in private affairs.

No matter what the proponents of the consumer legislation may say about their intent, it should be clear from the content of the bill that it authorizes the kind of bureaucratic interference that can bring the economy to a halt while bringing on price increases in everything from toothpicks to toupees.

One way to get a feeling for the scope of the bill is to consider some of the exemptions that have been written into it in con-

JOURNAL (D - 4,419)
Corry, Pennsylvania
(Erie Metropolitan Area)
April 24, 1975

In our opinion

✓ Two more bureaus needed?

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 legislature was on the brink of creating a new government bureau with cabinet status to protect the consumer. It was sup-

those asked opposed the national consumer agency. A pool by the National Federation of Independent Business shows 84 percent against such legislation.

Governments at the state and federal levels especially, are already loaded with bureaucrats who are supposed to be serving and protecting the people. There are so many that "hot

VIDORIAN (W - 1,875)

Vidor, Texas

(Beaumont/Port Arthur Metro Area)

April 24, 1975

an editorial

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 Consumers Affairs, the Con-

TIMES (W - 13,000)
Cheektowaga, New York
(Buffalo Metropolitan Area)
April 24, 1975



HERALD (D - 5,746)
Titusville, Pennsylvania
April 24, 1975

New Consumer Agency Needed?

For some reason, not understood by us, the answer to most of our country's problems, in Washington's view, is to establish another agency. It makes little matter that agencies have already been established to handle the situation. It matters little that red tape and bureaucracy are strangling private enterprise. And for some unknown reason Washington can't bring itself to the private view. That view is when an agency or a committee isn't functioning properly then make it work or get rid of it.

A case in point is the pending consumer representation bill (S200). That pending legislation authorizes \$60 million to operate the consumer

✓ In Our Opinion...

Naderism Rampant

Mr. American Consumer, be on your guard. You are about to be "protected" again by Congress.

There will be a small fee — \$60 million estimated for the next three years. There will be more bureaucrats added to the federal payroll — say, 500 or 1,000 to start. There will be certain inconveniences — businesses will be harassed and costs driven up by more red tape and government regulations.

But don't worry about all that: you are going to be protected, whether you like it or not. Ralph Nader and his crusaders have so

Funny thing, though. The new agency will NOT be allowed to inquire into any agreement involving organized labor. Although some believe that wage settlements have something to do with the cost of living, that area is off-limits to this fierce watchdog for the consumer.

Although this new version of the bill is not quite as bad as the one that was filibustered to death last year, it would be another gross intrusion of the government into the area of private enterprise. At a time when our economy is trying to get itself off the ropes, the last

INDEPENDENT (W - 6,300)
Souderton, Pennsylvania
(Philadelphia Metro Area)
April 23, 1975

Indian Valley

Opinion and Review

A6 Souderton Independent, Wednesday, April 23, 1975

Editorial

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

VALLEY INDEPENDENT (D - 16,385)
Monessen, Pennsylvania
(Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area)
April 23, 1975

For the consumers?

IT'S BECOMING fashionable these days for legislators to want to do something for the consumer. After all it's politically expedient to promise the taxpayer something whether you deliver or not.

Political figures make a habit of promising all kinds of things, oftentimes knowing full well they are not in the position of following through on

Health Administration (OSHA), was set up in 1971, it estimated its first year's budget at about \$31 million. Its estimate for 1976 is \$116 million.

There are all kinds of examples of how Congress has provided agencies and services to the consumer which eventually became financially burdensome.

It has been estimated that federal-mandated changes to automobiles

NEWS-DISPATCH (D - 11,000)
Jeannette, Pennsylvania
(Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area)
April 23, 1975

On the Side

By J.G.B.

Under this title since Tuesday, Oct.
17, 1922. Originated and written by
C.M. Bomberger until 1950



Not Another One!

There apparently is no let-up by some in Congress to push through enactment into law of a pending consumer representation proposal to establish a new umbrella-type Consumer Advocacy agency, to the tune of \$60 million for only the first three years of its existence. For there continue to be reports of stringent opposition to establishment of

Now it's being considered again, with opponents, such as the Roundtable group, agreeing even that there are needed areas for improvement in consumer advocacy circles. But the place for improvement is in better application, implementation and enforcement of existing agencies and statutes than to establish a new and even more expensive bureaucratic agency, as proposed.

recently indicating that a cross-section of consumers, by a 75 per cent majority, are firmly opposed to creation of such a new so-called independent consumer agency, with only a scant 13 per cent of those queried being in support of same. Moreover, more than half of the 13 per cent who initially favored such an agency withdrew their support when informed that the government would be spending

THE ENQUIRER-JOURNAL
Monroe, North Carolina
April 23, 1975

Americans say no to new federal consumer agency

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

Asked about present federal agencies in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Thus given the choice between creating a new agency or making

POST-HERALD (D - 20,169)
Beckley, West Virginia
April 23, 1975

Scheme Feared Just Another Bureaucracy

We note with interest the man from Illinois needling President Ford about reconsidering his opposition to a proposed federal consumer agency and to help find budget cuts to offset the cost of the new agency.

Sen. Charles Percy could be a serious presidential candidate next fall, that is if he can slave off the strong bid now being made by former California Gov. Ronald Regan.

However, it appears to us that Percy is using extremely poor timing. For instance, he is concerned that the President plans to object to a new \$60 million federal bureaucracy to be called the



A GOOD EXAMPLE of this is only now are we beginning to get sufficient highway fund allocations for our interstate highways, and already the big boys from Massachusetts and Connecticut are trying to change the rules of the game.

In addition, it worries us that the new measure — while it is still proposed — has won the support of major businesses, including Mobil Oil Corp. We could have really used the sympathy and support of that oil giant during the onslaught of the energy crisis, but although there

REPORTER (D - 6,463)
Lebanon, Indiana
(Indianapolis Metropolitan Area)
April 23, 1975

Consumers Prefer To Do It Themselves

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

Asked about present federal agencies in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Thus given the choice between creating a new agency or making existing ones effective, they strongly favored improving present agencies by 75 per cent to 13 per cent, as noted.

The survey also found that 27 per cent of consumers believe they are "almost always" treated fairly by business, while 59 per cent feel they are "usually" treated fairly. This

WORLD (D - 117,736 S - 193,984)
Tulsa, Oklahoma
April 23, 1975

Measuring The Cost

ONE OF the ways to justify some new spending by Government is to compare it with a much larger expenditure for an unpopular cause. Here's an example.

PRESIDENT FORD is against a proposed new Federal Consumer Protection Agency, which has a lot of support in Congress. A national column-

ful agency with the new magic word —Consumer.

It would make almost as much sense to say we ought to set up several additional social welfare agencies because they wouldn't cost any more than a few aircraft carriers. And much less than the War in Vietnam.

That is specious reasoning because it can be used to justify any expendi-

RECORD (D - 3,844)
Ridgway, Pennsylvania
April 23, 1975

Who needs it?

The antics of our legislators never cease to amaze us. They continue to spend money as if the well will never go dry.

The situation has deteriorated so badly that they are now spending your money and mine even before they get it.

All this despite the fact that these same lawmakers face a monumental task of finding enough currency to operate this state for the next seven-teen months.

This insignificant matter doesn't worry our distinguished lawmakers. They are too occupied with wasting

governor go along with this wild idea it will mean that the state will hire new people to protect the consumer from those hired to protect the consumer.

Confusing, isn't it?

Under a pre-arranged compromise, the Consumer Advocate will fight for both the farmer and the consumer. How the same agency can do this is enough to blow one's mind. The farmers constantly support higher prices while the consumer demands lower prices.

A House committee has also proposed a Crime Compensation Board that would be empowered to pay out

Consumers prefer to do it themselves

NEWS (D - 12,106)

POST (D - 15,798)

Frederick, Maryland
April 21, 1975

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Cost Of Consumer Protection

You may be surprised to learn that more than four-fifths of the people in the United States are opposed to the creation of a federal consumer protection agency.

A consumer protection agency sounds good, doesn't it? Yet the results of a survey printed last month in the Congressional Record indicate that 81 percent of the people want no part of it.

The survey taken by the Opinion

power-hungry bureaucrat turned loose by an Act of Congress to prey upon the public he is supposed to protect.

Consumers have plenty of protection from such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau on the local level and by the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division on the state level. The last thing we need is another federal agency.

7/1 *Consumers Prefer to do it Themselves*

862

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.

Monday Fred Huling Sr. reported to the Chamber of Commerce on this measure.

Although the empowering legislation, "The Consumer Protection Agency Act of 1975"

government.

Asked about present federal agencies in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Agency Opposed By Ford

WASHINGTON, April 18
(UPI) — President Gerald R. Ford told some members of Congress yesterday that he opposed creation of a new federal agency for protection of consumers and asked for a delay of action on Capitol Hill.

It was the first major public statement by the President on legislation, now pending in both the House and Senate, that would establish a

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
St. Louis, Missouri
April 18, 1975

Better, Not More

IN A SEASON that has not produced good news in great abundance, there is a ray of hope in the results of a public-opinion survey just concluded by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, N.J., at the behest of the Business Roundtable.

Only 13% felt that they had been dealt with unfairly by some business. Twenty-seven percent reported that they had "almost always" been treated fairly, and 59% said they had "usually" been treated fairly.

In cases in which consumers have

New York Times
April 18, 1975

Ford Tells Congressmen He Opposes Bill for Consumer

By RICHARD L. MADDEN
WASHINGTON, April 17—
President Ford announced today his opposition to legislation pending in Congress the last two years that would establish a Federal consumer protection agency.

With the Senate expected to begin debate on the bill

the bill should be passed this year and expressing hope that Mr. Ford would eventually support it.

Two key House sponsors, Representatives Benjamin S. Rosenthal, Democrat of Queens, and Frank Horton, Republican of upstate New York, said in a joint statement that they deeply regretted the President's re-

to review their existing efforts to represent the consumer, Mr. Ford said that he would meet with the chairmen and members of the independent regulatory agencies to discuss ways to improve the regulatory process.

"I am determined that the public will receive the most efficient and effective public

service at the least cost," he said.

In other developments, Mr. Ford announced the appointment of W. J. Usery Jr., director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, as special assistant to the President for labor-management negotiations. Mr. Usery will continue to head the mediation

Agency

TIMES (W - 9,556)
Montclair, New Jersey
(Newark Metropolitan Area)
April 17, 1975

Little Support

Legislating by public opinion poll is not necessarily a good way to run a government. But it is not a bad idea for legislators to have a fairly well tuned ear

the subject, with 75 per cent rejecting a new agency to handle consumer-related business. Most of the people who gave their opinions said they thought existing

ALEXANDRIA DAILY TOWN TALK
Alexandria, Louisiana
April 15, 1975

Consumers Want No Super Advocate

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 impres-

.. treated fairly by the government.

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NEWS

Birmingham, Alabama

April 15, 1975

The Poor Consumer?

How did the American consumer come to enjoy the highest standard of living yet recorded by history?

Did our two, three and four-car families achieve their mobility due to some kind of reverse effect of consumer exploitation in Detroit?

tries which are the most closely regulated by government. The airlines, the railroads, the power companies, gas and telephone companies are all in deep trouble. And Detroit, with vast new safety and environmental laws, have been required almost to price autos beyond the reach of literally millions of

Consumers Favor 'As Is'

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.

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in the consumer field, most of the people interviewed had heard of the Office of Consumer Affairs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, and most felt they were doing effective jobs.

Thus given the choice between creat-

MITCHELL REPUBLIC (E - 17,053)
Mitchell, South Dakota
April 10, 1975

Editor's Opinion

A \$60 Million Agency

When with reluctance President Ford signed the "Easter basket" tax measure, he took great pains to convey the position the nation cannot stand up under any further swelling of the Federal deficit by the Congress.

Yet the Senate is now poised to add another \$60 million dollars for set-

covering all sections of the nation, and all income, population, educational levels, and occupational groups found 75 per cent opposed to this legislation. Only 13 per cent were found to be in favor, and when this small group was questioned as to whether they would like to see the government spend \$60 million

TIMES-DELTA (6xW - 15,967)
Visalia, California
April 9, 1975

Editorial

Fighting Another Bureau

^A Consumer advocacy these days is an issue ranking right along with campaign reform, environmental protection and fuel conservation in political appeal.

It seems likely, then, that creation of an independent consumer agency, envisioned in a bill reported by the U.S.

A proclaimed goal is to scrutinize decisions or agreements that will affect prices consumers eventually will pay for goods and services. Yet the bill studiously rejects agency involvement in labor-management disputes handled by the National Labor Relations Board.

BROILER INDUSTRY (Circ. 9,230)
Garden State Bldg.
Sea Isle City, New Jersey
April, 1975

FROM WASHINGTON

A FLURRY OF EXCITEMENT hit Washington poultry circles Easter Monday as trade association personnel read the Federal Register, with a bulky recital of what the Food & Drug Administration does not sanction. It looked for awhile as if the animal waste recycling proposal had gone out the window.

Not so! The Bureau of Foods within FDA is preparing final comments on what it doesn't like about the proposals, and the draft will go to Commissioner Schmidt for final consideration. The signals

ucts show up in undesirable residues in food shipped interstate.

SENATE AND HOUSE probably will have compromised on a new Farm Bill as you read this, ready to send to the White House. Whether or not President Ford will veto it will depend upon his other priorities. He listens closely to USDA Secretary Butz who believes the target prices—or floor prices—set up for feeds eventually will cost American taxpayers billions of dollars. **Butz will recommend veto.**

The Congressional Bill, which would apply to this year's plantings, went into conference with a target price of \$2.25 a bushel for corn, and a non-recourse loan rate of \$3.91 a bushel on soybeans. That's about full cost of production for an efficient farmer. **A bumper crop**

this Congress with activity surfacing this summer. Peter Rodino (D. NJ) heads House Judiciary Subcommittee on Monopolies which will conduct hearings on Capper-Volstead Act and market order programs. Justice Dep't also is developing a legislative position in both areas.

"SISK"-TYPE BILL, H.R. 396, which would establish a National Agricultural Bargaining Board, is in the hopper. It would require handlers "to bargain in good faith" with "qualified" bargaining associations. Farm Bureau, Nat'l Council of Farmer Co-ops, labor support it. **Anything can happen in this Congress,** despite defeat of similar measures twice in the past.

One thing it means is that if an integrator has contract farmers,