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January 12, 1976

SUBJECT:

CONSUMER REPRESENTATION
HEARINGS/CONFERENCES

For Announcement

As you may recall, we previously announced that/had directed the President the White House Office of Public Liaison, OMB, and Office of Consumer Affairs (at HEW), to hold public meetings in nine cities across the country to explain how the Government's plans will work for the benefit of citizen-consumers and also to seek suggestions and ideas for ways to make the departments and agencies of the government more effective and responsive to public concerns.

The first conference will be held tomorrow, January 13, in Chicago, followed by eight others during the month of January.

Because of the response, I wanted to let you know that they will be holding three additional hearings on these wide-ranging consumer representation plans. These additional hearings will be held in Washington on February 17, 18, and 19, and Mr. Jim Lynn will open the meetings on the 17th.

If you are interested or would like more details on these hearings, please contact John Shlaes at 456-7090.

We have a more detailed release available in the press office from the Office of Public Liaison



CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE

Q. What are the President's views on the failure of the Paris preparatory meeting for an energy conference to reach agreement on the nature and scope of such a conference? Will the collapse of these talks lead to a rise in oil prices? How does the U. S. plan to deal with energy questions now that chances for the conference we proposed are clouded?

A. Though he is disappointed that the preparation conference did not produce plans for a formal consumer-producer conference, he thinks it provided an opportunity for a useful exchange of views on a range of subjects of mutual interest.

The main area of disagreement was the draft agenda, and without going into details, the basic difference of views centered around the scope and objectives of the conference. We believe that the proposed conference can achieve constructive results if it is focused on a limited number of points related to the central subject of energy, while others have insisted on a much broader conference on all aspects of the relationships between industrialized and developing countries. We are always ready and willing to discuss the broader issues relating to raw materials and other development problems in a forum more directly related to them and to seek mutually beneficial solutions.

We will continue to explore the possibilities of convening a constructive energy conference and to promote cooperation with each of the countries represented at the meeting. We hope that the other countries share this view, and in that vein, we would hope that world oil prices would not be affected.

FYI ONLY: You have a copy of Enders' statement. Any details on the prepcon or the likelihood of its being reconvened should be referred to the State Department.

*R. Nielsen. F.Y.I.
Palm Springs*

US Delegation to Consumer/Producer Conference

(Paris, April 7, 1975)

Head of Delegation - Charles W. Robinson
Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

Alternate US Delegate - Thomas O. Enders
Assistant Secretary of State for
Economic and Business Affairs
(Enders will head delegation in Robinson's absence)

Steven W. Bosworth
Director, Office of Fuels and Energy
Department of State

Robert D. Hormats
Deputy for International Economic Affairs
National Security Council

Wynne James
Assistant Associate Administrator
Federal Energy Administration

Dennis Lamb
Bureau of European Affairs
Department of State

Gerald H. Parsky
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Lawrence R. Raicht
Deputy Director of the Office of Fuels and Energy
Department of State

Steven M. Schwebel
Deputy Legal Advisor
Department of State

Sidney Sober
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
for Near East and South Asian Affairs

*Edward Symes, Jr.
Dept of Treasury*

May 14, 1975

SUBJECT:

SENATE ENDS DEBATE ON CREATION
OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY

The Senate yesterday voted to end debate on the creation of a new Federal Consumer Protection Agency. The Senate is still working on the agency's exact powers, but the bill is expected to pass the Senate in the near future.

Will the President veto a bill creating an agency for consumer advocacy?

GUIDANCE: That legislation is still in the legislative process, so I think it would be premature to speculate on what the President might do if it should arrive at his desk.

As you know, the President is opposed to the creation of another new federal agency for consumer advocacy. In his April 28 remarks to the 63rd annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, the President stated that he had ordered action by the executive departments and agencies to make major improvements in the quality of service to the consumer, and he also reiterated that he had asked Congress to postpone action on legislation which would create a new federal agency for consumer advocacy.

At that time, the President also said that he did not believe that we need another federal bureaucracy in Washington with its intended cost of about \$60 million over the next three years and hundreds of additional federal employees. At a time when we are trying to cut down both the size and the cost of government, it would be unsound to add still another layer of bureaucracy. A bigger government is not necessarily a better government.

JGC

March 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

SUBJECT: Senator Jesse Helms

Following a meeting today with Senator McClure and Senator Helms at the Capitol on the subject of the Consumer Protection Agency, Senator Helms pulled me aside and ask me to pass on this message. "I want you to know that I am not an adversary of President Ford. I like the man very much and understand his problems. I am sure the President knows how the press in this country operates and understands some of the things that are being written. I am a conservative and that's all I have been saying."

bcc: Jack Marsh
Don Rumsfeld
Bob Hartmann
Ron Nessen

September 25, 1974

SUBJECT:

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Mansfield decided yesterday that the Senate would not have a fifth cloture vote, thus Consumer Protection is dead for this session of Congress.

What's the President's reaction to the death of the Consumer Protection Agency this year?

GUIDANCE: The President has always been in favor of any constructive action for the consumer. However, he did recognize there were problems with the Senate bill and that proper balance must be maintained between the powers of any such new Agency and the duties of existing Agencies.

Will the President push for a Consumer Protection Agency in the next session of Congress?

GUIDANCE: President Ford believes there is a need for a separate Consumer Protection Agency. However, he shares the concern of many who feel that such legislation must be carefully written. A proper balance must be maintained between the powers of any new Agency and the duties of the existing Agencies.

One should realize that there is a consumer advocate within the Executive Branch, that being Virginia Knauer, the Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

JGC



September 23, 1974

SUBJECT:

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Senate last week failed in its fourth try for a cloture vote to end debate on an independent Consumer Protection Agency. There is a possibility they may try for a fifth cloture vote.

What is the President's position on the Consumer Protection bill?

GUIDANCE: President Ford believes there is a need for a consumer advocate within the Executive Branch and even a separate Consumer Protection Agency. However, he shares the concern of many who feel that such legislation must be carefully written. The President believes that proper balance must be maintained between the powers of any such new agency and the duties of existing agencies. The President has said that he could not support any bill that did not properly balance these factors.

What is the President's position on the pending Senate bill?

GUIDANCE: The House-passed bill is acceptable to the President, but we do have some concerns with the bill pending in the Senate.

Does the President feel there should be a fifth cloture vote, thus ending debate and allowing a vote on the Senate bill?

GUIDANCE: Whether there should or should not be a fifth cloture vote is up to the Senate and its leadership, not to the President.