

there has been a good deal said about the fact that some of our best friends are consumers, and then some indication in regard to some aspects of my best friends.

I would like for you to note that fundamentally the people who have been pushing harder for this proposal have been those in the area of social welfare, like Mr. Borom, those in the area of education, and there have been some minds that have been concerned with the legalistic aspects and the legalistic doubts. I spoke to Mr. Norman Polovoy over the holiday in connection with what could be done if this were in the Constitution that could not be done now, and here are some pointed remarks that he made in this respect: He said that he handles 300 cases a week, largely concerned with business practices. Other states have moved in this area, the sort of thing which was referred to, which will give economic security to the poor, aged, and sick. It is true that in Congress they have attempted for a period of eight years to pass legislation and have not moved ahead. It is also true that those in the congressional halls have made it clear that you need complementary bills, those passed at the federal government level, and those passed at the state level.

All one need do is read Dr. Koployitz' study, *THE POOR PAY MORE*. If you had the privilege of reading this book you would know the poor have no real choice in regard to prices, that they pay a great deal more for the commodities that they purchase, and they are of lesser value. You should look at this.

There is a second point which Mr. Polovoy made, and that is that the whole area of the legislation which we do have in Maryland could be expanded. Those of us associated with colleges and universities know the significance of acts which would deal with hallucinatory drugs, and they would be able to place their finger on this matter. Then this matter of lending: I would like to relate one story to you.

At our own college we have some students who are spending more time at work than they should, and they are doing this because they need to pay out debts of the family. You are all familiar with the integrated loan agencies, which take a whole host of loans and integrate them into one; but when they do, they commit the wife of the family and the young men and women and children of the family to take on new job responsibilities. Students who are already carrying out too great a workload endanger their scholastic work.

I have talked with them personally.

Mr. Polovoy said the whole area of gimmicks in super markets, bingo, Tigerama, in terms of gasoline stations—six States, if you have ever watched TV have statements which say they cannot permit this sort of thing, and if we in Maryland could move in this area, prices would be lowered instead of the gimmicks which are held before us.

Now, finally this matter of voluntary action: The Better Business Bureau in Baltimore handles 75,000 cases, and they handle them in the main very well. But they can only deal with those ethical businesses that are part of the Better Business Bureau. They cannot say to those unscrupulous business groups that are not members, you must follow the law.

Cav Darrell, a wonderful person, said this week that a year ago he would have voted against consumer protection, but now he realizes that the best for the ethical merchandiser is to have laws which protect them against the unscrupulous. The better businessmen whom we know comprise 95 percent of the merchants and are ethical, but they need this constitutional provision which would say once and for all that along with voluntary action you need this other action.

Just one word to my very good friend, Dr. Winslow, who I just think is tops, and that is: It may well be that this holds out a promise that cannot be fulfilled, but I say to you as one who studied school laws in Maryland and developed a lot of them that in 1867 there were some who rose in this very hall, this building, and said that you are holding out the hopes for public education for large masses of people, the kind of hopes that will never materialize; and those of you who know how hard we have worked in education to make this dream become a reality know that it would never have been possible, had not the hopes been held out.

We have nothing to lose by this, and a whole lot to gain. We give a good deal of endorsement to what the General Assembly has done, and this will give them a little push which they themselves want.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak?

Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Mr. President, under the rule, a delegate for