

PRESIDENT'S  
REORGANIZATION  
PROJECT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

**AUG 1 1977**

Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On April 6, 1977, President Carter announced his support for the establishment of a consumer agency. On June 1, 1977, the President announced that creation of this agency would permit him to eliminate or consolidate existing consumer agencies now scattered through out the Federal government. To carry out the President's commitment we are recommending the consolidation of 26 existing consumer units which, as presently constituted, would duplicate the functions of the new consumer agency.

The 26 organizations we have identified will no longer be necessary in their present form when the consumer agency is established. These agencies today spend approximately \$11.6 million and include over 200 employees. These units include:

- (1) Office of Rail Public Counsel, Interstate Commerce Commission;
- (2) Legal and Consumer Research Sections, Office of the Consumer Advocate, Civil Aeronautics Board;
- (3) Officer of the Commission (consumer representation function), Postal Rate Commission;
- (4) Consumer Information Office, Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- (5) Consumer Assistance Office, Federal Communications Commission;
- (6) Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs, Federal Power Commission;
- (7) Special Assistant to the President and the Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Health, Education and Welfare;
- (8) Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs, Office of Human Development, Department of Health, Education and Welfare;

- (9) Consumer Affairs Officers of the Food and Drug Administration;
- (10) Consumer Affairs Division, Domestic and International Business Administration, Department of Commerce;
- (11) Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Labor;
- (12) Consumer Coordinator and Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of State;
- (13) Office of Consumer Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Consumer Affairs, Department of Transportation;
- (14) Community and Consumer Liaison Division, Office of Public Affairs, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation;
- (15) Consumer Affairs Director, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation;
- (16) Special Assistant to the Secretary for Consumer Affairs, Department of the Treasury;
- (17) Consumer Affairs and Special Impact Division, Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Special Programs, Federal Energy Administration (subject to modifications consistent with the provisions included in the bill to establish the Department of Energy);
- (18) Consumer Information Center, General Services Administration;
- \* (19) Consumer Advisory Committee, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture;
- \* (20) National Consumer Advisory Committee, Department of Agriculture;
- (21) Consumer Advisory Council, Department of Health, Education and Welfare;
- \* (22) Citizens Advisory Committee on Aviation, Department of Transportation;
- \* (23) Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation, Department of Transportation;
- (24) Advisory Group to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury;
- (25) Consumer Affairs and Special Impact Committee, Federal Energy Administration; and

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Terminated administratively; resources proposed to be transferred.

(26) Science for Citizens Advisory Committee, National Science Foundation.

By establishing this single agency for consumer representation, we will be able to eliminate overlapping and duplicative consumer functions and create a more effective representative for consumers within the Federal government.

In addition, the President will direct the executive departments and agencies to rescind the "consumer representation plans" that were required of all major agencies by the previous Administration. These plans were developed as a part of an effort to forestall creation of a consumer agency by the last Congress. They were implemented at a cost of more than \$8.5 million. The President has asked me to eliminate these funds in the 1979 budget.

The President hopes that Congress will now be able to take prompt action on the consumer agency legislation and act favorably on our consolidation proposals. The result will be not only more efficient conduct of consumer representation functions, but also a savings to American taxpayers.

The staff of the President's Reorganization Project is prepared to discuss with your staff the specific steps necessary to accomplish this reorganization.

Sincerely,

Bert Lance  
Director

(Identical letter sent to President of the Senate)