GENERAL
FI41/FG169
FG169
O'Conor, Herbert O.
Allbritton, Joe L.
Pippin, Karl

April 3, 1969

Dear John:

This is in response to the letter of March 20, 1969, which you and the other members of the National Commission on Consumer Financing sent to the President asking him to submit to Congress a supplemental request of $1,500,000 and to appoint a chairman for the Commission.

In accord with the usual practice, on March 25, 1969, the three members of the Commission appointed by President Johnson have been asked to submit their resignations. Several qualified candidates for replacement are now being considered. Once the selection of the new members is finalized, the President will designate one of them as Chairman as well as consider an appropriate funding level for the Commission's activities.

In the meantime, please bear with us during this period of transition.

Sincerely,

/S/

Bryce N. Harlow
Assistant to the President

Honorable John Sparkman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

BNH:Budget:rks

Orig dispatched.

Six (6) letters - Two (2) dated 4/2/69

RECEIVED
APR 7 1969
CENTRAL FILES

Green copies used for name file

GENERAL

WE10

FG169

April 28, 1969

Dear Mr. Kass:

I appreciate your letter bringing to my attention the valuable assistance which the National Commission on Consumer Finance can render in understanding the problems of the poor.

Since Mrs. Virginia H. Knauer has been appointed by President Nixon as his Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs, I am sharing with her your letter of concern about the implementation of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Moynihan
Assistant to the President

Mr. Benny L. Kass
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
1819 H Street, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D. C. 20006

GENERAL
FI 4/FG 169
FG 169

July 3, 1969

Dear Mr. Halpern:

Thank you for your June 25 letter to the President concerning the funding of the National Consumer Finance Commission. We are checking into this matter and will be back in touch.

With cordial regard,

Sincerely,

Bill

William E. Timmons
Deputy Assistant to
the President

Honorable Seymour Halpern
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

(ORIGINAL letter sent to BOB on 7/7 for DRAFT REPLY)

WET:ECH:ech

cc: Bud Wilkinson w/cc of inc
Harry Flemming w/cc of inc

GENERAL

FI4/FG 169
FG 169

July 30, 1969

Dear Mr. Halpern:

This is in further response to your letter of June 25 urging an immediate supplemental request of $1.5 million for the National Commission on Consumer Finance.

It is felt that submission of a supplemental request would not be productive at this time. You may recall that the previous Administration requested funds from Congress for the Commission which was denied on the grounds that the Commission Chairman had not yet been appointed. We hope to resolve that matter in the near future.

Moreover, while we are sympathetic with the objectives of the Commission, as you know, Congress placed a limitation on 1970 outlays in the Second Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1969. Accordingly, this Administration must carefully review and assess its spending plans for 1970. However, your views will be carefully considered in determining the level of funding for the Commission.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

BILL

William E. Timmons
Deputy Assistant to
the President

Honorable Seymour Halpern
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

bcc: Robert P. Mayo, Director, Bureau of the Budget sent 8-1

WET:BOB:EF:jlc

gh

FG 169

To C.F.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1969

Mr. Richard A. Elbrecht
Administrator
Research and Appeals Unit
Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County
235 E. Santa Clara Street, Suite 200
San Jose, California 95113

Dear Mr. Elbrecht:

I have been asked to reply to your letter of July 9 on behalf of Daniel P. Moynihan concerning the National Commission on Consumer Finance. At this moment, we are actively involved in the search for appropriate people to serve on this Commission and expect to make our appointments shortly. We share your opinion as to its importance, and you may be assured that it will soon be ready to begin its work.

Many thanks for taking the time and effort to write us.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the President

cc w/incoming to Checker Finn

cc: Central files
file cy

JROSE/ms/8/11/69

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Administrative Office
235 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SUITE 200
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95113
TELEPHONE 298-1315

9 July 1969

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Assistant to the President for
Urban Affairs
White House
Washington, D. C. 20550

Re: National Commission on Consumer Finance

Dear Mr. Moynihan:

A bipartisan National Commission on Consumer Finance was created by Congress in Title IV of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (Public Law 90-321, signed May 29, 1968).

The task of the Commission is described in the Act in the following language:

"Section 404. Duties of the Commission.

"(a) The Commission shall study and appraise the functioning and structure of the consumer finance industry, as well as consumer credit transactions generally. The Commission, in its report and recommendations to the Congress, shall include treatment of the following topics:

"(1) The adequacy of existing arrangements to provide consumer credit at reasonable rates.

"(2) The adequacy of existing supervisory and regulatory mechanisms to protect the public from unfair practices, and insure the informed use of consumer credit.

"(3) The desirability of Federal chartering of consumer finance companies, or other Federal regulatory measures. * * * * "

9 July 1969

The Commission is required to submit a report of its findings, recommendations and conclusions to the Congress, and to the President, by January 1, 1971.

Our information is that the Nixon Administration has not yet taken measures necessary to implement the Commission. The Consumer Credit Protection Act requires the Commission to perform tasks which are of great urgency. It is important to the nation that the Administration implement the Commission.

We urge the President personally to see to it that the Commission is organized, funded and staffed, and that it be actively supported and encouraged to proceed forward and perform its mission in conformance with the intent of the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

Yours respectfully,

Richard A. Elbrecht
Administrator
Research & Appeals Unit

RAE:gm

GENERAL
FG 169

(2)

elm

FG 169

September 5, 1969

File
Consumer
Finance

Dear Congressman:

Many thanks for your letter of September 2 in which you recommend James W. Jukes to serve as a member of the Commission on Consumer Finance. Please be assured that he will receive very careful consideration for that post.

With best regards and again, thanks for your assistance,

No

Sincerely,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the
President

Honorable Garner E. Shriver
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

CC: Harry Flemming w/incoming
Peter Flanigan w/ incoming
Virginia Knauer w/incoming

PMF:jz

GARNER E. SHRIVER
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

ROOM 2439
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

LESTER ROSEN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR—HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 2, 1969

Mr. Peter Flanigan
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

This is to recommend to the President the name of Mr. James W. Jukes of Wichita, Kansas to serve as a member of the Commission on Consumer Finance.

I am acquainted with Mr. Jukes and believe he is well qualified to make a valuable contribution to the work of this Commission. He is the Managing Director of the Kansas League of Credit Unions, and the President of the International Association of Managing Directors. Mr. Jukes is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Business.

I would appreciate his receiving favorable consideration when a vacancy occurs on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Garner E. Shriver

Garner E. Shriver
Member of Congress

GENERAL
FG 169

ehm

September 23, 1969

Dear Senator:

Many thanks for your letter of September 12 in which you recommend James W. Jukes for appointment to the Commission on Consumer Finance. Please be assured that he will receive very careful consideration for the post which he desired.

With best regards and again, thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the
President

Honorable James B. Pearson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

PMF:sle

cc: HFlemming w/inc.
LAlexander
PFlanigan

Mc

GENERAL
FG169
FG 36-6

September 24, 1969

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning implementation of Title IV of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and the enclosed letter concerning the National Commission on Consumer Finance.

I know the President will appreciate having your views on this matter which is under current consideration at the White House.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. BeLieu
Deputy Assistant to the President

Moss
Honorable Frank E. Moss
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

bcc: w/incoming to John Rose for FURTHER ACTION. Sent 9/29
bcc: Virginia Knauer - FYI
bcc: Daniel P. Moynihan - FYI

KEB:VO:EF:emu

4

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1969

FG,69
~~197~~ 78

MEMORANDUM FOR JON ROSE

FROM: BUD KROGH

Jon, this letter to the President from Frank Moss, Chairman of the Consumer Subcommittee, found its way to our office by mistake.

As your office is responsible for consumer affairs, I pass it on to you for whatever action you deem appropriate.

I notice that they are concerned about the appointment of public members to the National Commission on Consumer Finance, and I figure this goes through your office via Darrell Trent.

Thanks, Jon.

Memo

FRANK E. MOSS
UTAH

V 9-20

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 19, 1969

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of my Consumer Advisory Council and myself, I wish to bring to your personal attention a matter of great urgency.

Because you have not appointed three public members to the National Commission on Consumer Finance (established under Title IV of the Consumer Credit Protection Act), vital tasks assigned that Commission by Congress have not been undertaken. Without action by you there will be no study of the adequacy of existing arrangements to provide consumer credit at reasonable rates; there will be no examination of existing supervisory and regulatory mechanisms to protect the public from unfair practices; and there will be no effective campaign to insure informed use of consumer credit.

I do not construe your failure to act as an intentional abuse of the American consumer. But your inaction does constitute serious and direct consumer disadvantage because it forestalls any correction of certain critical consumer credit problems, including problems which particularly plague the economically deprived citizens of this country.

The enclosed letter from the Consumer Advisory Council registers the views of proven consumer leaders. Their request to you through me has no political overtones; it simply reflects dedicated consumer concern. As verification of that dedication, the Council members have asked me to tell you that they are available to assist you in finding three public members for the Commission if you wish.

Urging you to give this matter your immediate attention, I am

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Moss

Frank E. Moss, Chairman
Consumer Subcommittee

Enc.
cc--Virginia Knauer
cc--Daniel P. Moynihan

September 15, 1969

Dear Chairman Moss:

In the field of consumer interests, there is at least one area which has been seriously overlooked. This is in the field of consumer credit. Everyone seems to be saying: "We've passed Truth-in-Lending; we can sit back and watch the problems go away." But even if Truth-in-Lending lives up to the claims of its proponents (and only time -- and a concentrated educational campaign -- will tell) it is only Title I of a five-part Act. The other four titles are Title II - Extortionate Credit; III - Restriction on Garnishment (effective July 1, 1970); IV - Creation of a National Commission on Consumer Finance; and V - General Provisions.

As you know Title IV has not yet been implemented. By law, the President is required to select three public members, including a chairman. The six Congressional members have already been selected (3 from Senate; 3 from House), and President Johnson -- in one of his last acts in office -- appointed the three public members. He failed, however, to name a Chairman. As a result, we are still without a National Commission on Consumer Finance.

The Commission is directed to consider, among others, the following topics:

(1) The adequacy of existing arrangements to provide consumer credit at reasonable rates;

(2) The adequacy of existing supervisory and regulatory mechanisms to protect the public from unfair practices, and insure the informed use of consumer credit; and

(3) The desirability of Federal chartering of consumer finance companies, or other Federal regulatory measures.

The Commission is to make its final report by January 1, 1971. (§ 404, CCPA).

Perhaps the most important function of this Commission is to make an over-all evaluation of the status of consumer credit and finance in our modern, complex economy. Such a study has not been undertaken in recent years, especially one that would take into consideration the "Consumer Interest." And, unfortunately, there is no data at all about inner-city economics. Presumably, the Commission would look into this area also.

Accordingly, the members of your Advisory Committee are deeply concerned because the National Commission on Consumer Finance has not yet been created. We urge you to communicate our thoughts and concern to the appropriate officials in Washington, including President Nixon, Mrs. Knauer, and Mr. Daniel P. Moynihan.

Sincerely yours,

Betty Furness

Esther Peterson

Bess Myerson Grant

Joseph Swidler

Henry A. Hill

Honorable Frank E. Moss
Chairman
Subcommittee for Consumers
Senate Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL
FG 169

Bw

September 27, 1969

Dear Sy:

The President has asked me to reply to your letter of September 18 concerning the National Commission on Consumer Finance.

I am able at this time to confirm the President's intention to activate the National Commission on Consumer Finance and to make the appropriate appointments. It is anticipated that a chairman will be designated from among those so appointed in order that the important work of the Commission may be expeditiously begun.

Your interest in and support of this contemplated action is appreciated.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

Bryce

Bryce N. Harlow
Assistant to the President

x

Honorable Seymour Halpern
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

bcc: Wm. Timmons - FYI
bcc: Peter Flanigan - FYI

Sent 9/29

BNH:VO:EF:vo

4

,4 V 9-20

SEYMOUR HALPERN
6TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE:
89-31 161ST STREET
JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11432

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOSPITALS
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
HOUSING

WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM
1969 SEP 20 AM 9 22

September 18, 1969

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

BH

I have just learned from oral communication between my staff and your Assistant, Mr. William Timmons, that within a month you are planning to break the impasse that has paralyzed the National Commission on Consumer Finance for months.

It is my understanding that from among the Presidential appointees, a commission chairman will be named, and hopefully, a supplemental budget appropriation will then be requested so the machinery authorized by the Truth-in-Lending Act could be set in motion.

I would like to confirm this understanding with you. I am most encouraged by this positive action, and I'm sure I'm expressing the sentiment of my fellow colleagues on the Commission--Senators Brook, Sparkman, Proxmire and Congressman Patman and Mrs. Sullivan. I would consider it a privilege to publicly complement the Administration, on behalf of the Commission, for this positive action in advancing the public interest in seeing to it that the $90 billion consumer credit industry is properly evaluated.

With all my best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Sy Halpern

Seymour Halpern
Member of Congress

SH:pd

SEYMOUR HALPERN
6TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE:
89-31 161ST STREET
JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11432

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOSPITALS
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
HOUSING

September 18, 1969

Staff Williams — 3 committees — deception — [illegible]

Hon. Richard M. Nixon
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

BH

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With all my best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Sy Halpern

Seymour Halpern
Member of Congress

SH:pd

BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL

FG 169 11/5/69

Previously filed Date

NAME Mr. Herbert R. O'Conor, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE

FG 169 11/8/69

New File Symbol Date

FINAL ACTION Mr. Ehrlichman's letter to Mr. O'Conor

GENERAL

SP2-3-30/PRO

FG169

November 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The President was pleased to receive your thoughtful letter and wants you and those you represent to know that he greatly appreciates your generous comments regarding his proposals in behalf of the American consumer. He is indeed grateful for your Organization's approval and support and for your interest in giving him the benefit of your views and suggestions.

With the President's best wishes to you and your members,

Sincerely,

Noble M. Melencamp
Staff Assistant
to the President

Mr. R. C. Robertson
President
CUNA International, Inc.
1812 West Monroe Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

SM:jz

cg

GENERAL ③
PR1
FG169
~~FG33-2~~
FG6-11-1/Flanigan, Peter M.

December 8, 1969

Dear Mr. Hodes:

This is just a brief note to thank you for your tremendous assistance in the launching of the National Commission on Consumer Finance. I am informed by my assistant, Jonathan Rose, that you did much of the staff work necessary to sustain its appropriations before the relevant House Appropriations Subcommittee.

We all deeply appreciate your efforts. I do hope to have the chance one day to meet you personally.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the
President

Mr. Jeffrey Hodes
c/o Honorable Seymour Halpern
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

dg

GENERAL
PR1
FG169
~~FG33-4~~
FG6-11-1/Flanigan, Peter M.

(3)

December 8, 1969

Dear Mr. Holstein:

Professor Braucher has informed me of your great assistance in the launching of the National Commission on Consumer Finance. Your help and courtesy to him have greatly facilitated the ability of this Commission to initiate its important work.

The purpose of this brief note is to express our gratitude for your most significant effort on the Commission's behalf.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the
President

Mr. Charles B. Holstein
House Committee on
Banking and Currency
Washington, D. C.

YBW

GENERAL

FG169

FG33-2-1

(1)

December 8, 1969

Dear Mr. Crane:

I am informed that you were most helpful in laying the groundwork for Representative Halpern's appearance before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on behalf of the National Commission on Consumer Finance.

The purpose of this brief note is to thank you for your great efforts in this connection.

Obviously this Commission has a most important mission to perform. We deeply appreciate your efforts in assisting it to obtain the necessary funds. I do hope that we have the chance to meet personally one day.

Thank you again for your help to us.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Peter M. Flanigan
Assistant to the
President

Mr. Steven Crane
c/o Honorable Seymour Halpern
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.