(h) Exhibit at the California State Fair in Sacramento.

I should emphasize that all of the above plans are still in the formulating stage and have not been finally approved. They may change substantially and their implementation will pose obvious problems. We welcome the advice of other consumer groups and the benefit of their experiences.

MARYLAND

Henry Redkey

Perhaps the newest of the state consumers organizations was organized at Rockville, Maryland in May, 1961. How does an organization of consumers start? What conditions must exist before it can catch its first breath and begin to do something for consumers? In our case the spark came from the Co-op Congress, an elected body representing 23,000 members of Greenbelt Consumer Services - the largest consumer cooperative in the United States. Just why did it start when it did? Probably because all consumers were gradually getting more uneasy about the things they bought that didn't wear well, or that cost too much, or that were packaged in weird sizes and shapes. But there had to be a channel. The Co-op Congress was a good channel for articulate Co-op members who were accustomed to working together for the things they wanted. Through the Speaker of the Congress, they simply called upon the Board of Directors to appropriate some money to hold a conference to which other consumers from all over the state would be invited.

But there are other channels for consumer discontent. Among some of the most useful members of the Council today are the "Carter Girls". Mrs. Virginia Carter wrote an angry letter to one of the Washington newspapers about poor quality in consumer goods. Soon housewives all around Washington were chiming in in letters to the editor, who sent the originals to Mrs. Carter. She loaned them to the Co-op committee who invited them to the workshop.

Workshops cost money, particularly if out-of-town speakers with reputations are desired. Having obligated its first $500, the Co-op committee decided it would like to share the credit with a co-sponsor who could furnish the dowry. Nationwide Insurance, backer of many Co-op projects, and persistent supporter of the consumer point of view, responded with another $500, plus staff with needed skills. The workshop cost about $1100, and was considered a good investment by all concerned.
The program listed such authorities as Harry Culbreth of Nationwide, the Rev. Robert J. McEwen, the Hon. Philip A. Hart - U.S. Senator - Dr. Richard L. D. Morse, and Miss Persia Campbell. Following each speaker, there was plenty of time for well-organized small group discussions, chaired by especially coached discussion leaders.

How about the people? Seventy-two registered for the workshop. Among them were representatives of about 20 organizations, including the Maryland Farm Bureau, Maryland -D.C. A F of L-CIO, the Grange, several cooperatives including a rural electric Co-op, Group Health, Greenbelt Consumers Service (a consumer co-op), Southern States (a farm co-op) and Potomac Cooperative Federation. Other organizations included the Maryland Home Economics Association, women's clubs, the Weights and Measures Association, and the Maryland State Council of Home Makers. Among the individuals were college professors, housewives, and a variety of state and federal employees, many of whom were highly sophisticated concerning consumer problems.

To wind up the workshop just after those present had voted to form a permanent organization, the clerical staff surprised everyone by presenting each participant a bound copy of the proceedings, containing the papers presented, summaries of each group discussion and the minutes of the business session at which the action to form a permanent organization was taken.

So much for getting started. It may have been the easiest part. There were delays, but the Council is now formally incorporated and has officers and a temporary board of directors which will serve until the first annual meeting in May, 1962. Committees on membership, finance, legislation, publicity and program for the annual conference are organized and busy. Organization memberships range from $25 to $125. Individual dues are $5.

A very distinguished technical advisory committee is being recruited from the large number of well-qualified technical people in the Washington area.

Much will depend upon the 1962 conference, or workshop. Present plans are to use local authorities from such agencies as the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Agriculture, etc. The Council will shortly start publishing a newsletter. A goal of 50 organization memberships and 500 individual members has been set for this year.

The Council has been active on only one legislative issue: "Truth in Lending". It has had some influence upon the thinking of the state government on consumers' problems, but its work and influence lie ahead of it.

One thing I can say to this audience with complete confidence and that is that Maryland is eager to learn from every other consumer organization. Please tell us how you did it and if you didn't do it,
maybe it would help us to know what didn't work for you. Our president is Mrs. Sarah Newman. She will welcome ideas from any of you. It seems to us that everyone comes to Washington sooner or later. Please give your Maryland counterparts a ring.

NEW JERSEY

Nancy Hawkins

The Consumers' League of New Jersey was founded in 1899 by a group of people who felt that the consumers should be as responsible as anyone concerning the labor conditions under which the products he consumed were produced, and also the honesty with which these products were presented to the public.

At that time many cough remedies and patent medicines contained opium, and thousands of otherwise up-right Americans were dope addicts without knowing it.

Attempts at labor organization were met with federal troops and 40-hour week was a laughable matter. Children worked long hours and there were no seats for women in factories or retail stores. Some of the reforms for which the New Jersey Consumers' League is responsible for initiating are:

Factory Act establishing State Department of Labor--1904
Law regulating hours for minors engaged in messenger service--1911
Hours Law for women--1912
Child Labor Laws--1914 and 1920
Compulsory Education Laws for children under sixteen--1914 and 1940
The Migrant Labor Law passed in New Jersey in 1945
A Study in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Labor in relationship of Juvenile Delinquency to the increase in work permits, 1955.
Hot water regulation for Migrant Camps, 1960

Work in Process -- Minimum Wage Bill accepted as administration bill