

Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Minutes of Commissioners' Meeting

June 7, 1973

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Not approved by Commissioners

Commissioners present:

Chairman Simpson

Vice Chairman Franklin

Commissioner Newman

Chairman Simpson opened the meeting at 1:30 P.M. He reported the election of Commissioner Franklin as Vice Chairman at the Executive Session on May 31, 1973.

The following announcements were made by the Chairman:

1. The House Committee on Appropriations had reported a bill calling for \$30.9 million for CPSC in fiscal year 1974; however, \$6.8 million of the total was to be kept in reserve. (Later in the meeting \$1.8 million of this reserve was identified as being in the area of Information and Education.)
2. A petition has been received from the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) to develop standards for synthetic turf. General Counsel advised that use of synthetic turf by collegiate or scholastic players would be of a recreational nature and therefore under the purview

of the CPSC. Professional useage may be occupational and CPSC is discussing this area of responsibility with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

A staff briefing on the Bureau of Epidemiology identified NEISS as a bi-level reporting system which includes both surveillance and follow-up, in-depth investigations. The hospital sampling plan was derived from the Bureau of Census primary sampling units and strata utilizing hospital emergency room visits. Samples of hospital emergency room records, daily print-outs by product, frequency and mean severity, a matrix and a NEISS hospital location map by state were distributed. Also, the death certificate study was explained as it will start with 15 state contracts in the first quarter of FY 74.

Severity/frequency ranking and the need to be factual in releasing CPSC data was discussed. Further discussion evolved on the relationship of CPSC data to that released by the National Commission on Product Safety. Concern was expressed on ways to extrapolate data from NEISS to approximate national estimates for a given product or injury. Dr. Verhalen indicated that the Bureau was working on extimator equations to provide these figures.

The clearinghouse was identified and the planned use

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43

explained in conjunction with the library. The diagramic explanation of the archives, consumer product index of injuries, data requests and NEISS News followed the distributed briefing paper. During the discussion a request was made for the number of women and minorities on Bureau staff.

The effect of fatalities on the mean severity was discussed. Comparisons were shown for some products with and without deaths included in the calculations. Also, a comparison of agency and contract investigations was presented.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis briefing discussed the connotation of "public need," "utilitarian," "competition," and technical questions, e.g. "sharp points." Discussion emphasized the use of words, such as 'market' and the meaning to the various people we are communicating with from different walks of life. Discourse also identified the relationship of the environmental impact of CPSC actions as well as the need to be cognizant of the confidentiality of certain information provided by the industries.

The Bureau of Information and Education presented a proposed educational program on water slides. This safety program is in response to recent interest in the

34

severity of certain injuries associated with the use of water slides. The proposed program included the development of news releases, TV spots, radio spots, a feature article and fact sheets. Discussion revolved around a proposed label for slides and the position of the CPSC in the use of the label. Specific approval by the Commissioners was deferred; however, planning should proceed on the information and educational aspects.

The Consumers Union suit against the CPSC objecting to the surface temperatures permitted and the lack of double insulation requirement in the Electrically Operated Toy Regulation was discussed. Proposed questions seeking information on the technical aspects of Consumers Union position were discussed. The decision to send the questions to the President of Consumers Union from the Chairman was agreed upon. The communication will be prepared by the Executive Director and include a two week time period for response.

A revised status of regulations was given to the Secretary for distribution. The Executive Director indicated that those items that reflect time<sup>RUNNING</sup> will be included in project plans and reported accordingly.

The meeting was closed at 5:20 P.M.

Samuel M. Hart  
Secretary