

Rose S. Klamon

Mrs. Joseph Klamon in discussing the presentation of Mrs. Nelson of California and Mr. Frassinelli of Connecticut, said that the consumer in Missouri feels a great need for a central agency or individual to co-ordinate all consumer problems and channel them to the proper agencies.

From the report of Mr. Frassinelli it was quite evident that his agency is very active in all phases of consumer protection, ranging from food contamination to the establishment of an around the clock poison center, of which his state should be justly proud. Mrs. Klamon was especially pleased that Mr. Frassinelli is doing such a fine job of protecting consumers as her son's family now lives in Connecticut.

In Missouri the St. Louis Consumer Federation has tried for years to have a spokesman for consumers in the state government without success, but have not given up. In trying to accomplish this they will now use as examples the fine record of the Department of Consumer Protection of the State of Connecticut and the accomplishments of Mrs. Helen Ewing Nelson, Consumer Counsel of the State of California. The agency in California has been in existence only since October, 1959 but has already accomplished a great deal in protecting and advising the consumer on credit costs, misrepresentation in advertising, milk prices, and many other fields.

The St. Louis Consumer Federation, however, even without such an agency, has had some success in carrying out projects at the state level. They were instrumental in keeping Missouri from having a Fair Trade law. This state, together with Vermont and Texas have never had such a statute on the books.

They have twice opposed the passage of the Milk Pricing Act. In 1957 the law passed but was vetoed by the Governor. In 1959 it finally passed, and is now being tested in the courts.

With the help of the state Health Department they have brought to the attention of the public methods used by some food handlers in disguising substandard food. The Health Department has always been very co-operative but has had to reduce its staff this year due to a cut in appropriations for that department.

She pointed out that while Missouri does not have a state consumer agency, nor do we have a federal agency of this kind, they do have the very able Congresswoman Leonor K. Sullivan, who is always ready and willing to speak for the protection of the consumer.