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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PETE SPARBER REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS AND COMMISSIONER MOORE  
DATE OF MEETING: DECEMBER 19, 1997  
PLACE OF MEETING: CPSC HEADQUARTERS/ROOM 725  
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: PAMELA L. WELLER  
DATE OF ENTRY: DECEMBER 23, 1997  
COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

THOMAS H. MOORE, COMMISSIONER  
MICHAEL GOUGISHA, COUNSELOR TO COMMISSIONER MOORE  
PAMELA L. WELLER, COUNSELOR TO COMMISSIONER MOORE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

PHILLIP J. WAKELYN, NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

At the outset of the meeting, Commissioner Moore indicated that the upholstered furniture rulemaking was a major undertaking and had to be thoroughly explored.

Both Mr. Wakelyn and Mr. Sparber indicated that they had been impressed by the staff briefing which had taken place the day before. They complimented Dale Ray, the project manager, and the very professional presentation which he put together.

Mr. Sparber indicated that he agreed with Commissioner Gall that worker safety was an important issue, but in that context one had to also consider the safety of the firefighters. Once the foam in a piece of upholstered furniture becomes involved there is intense heat and CO fills the room. He said they would ask the AFL-CIO to become involved in the rulemaking because of the worker safety issues.

Mr. Sparber said that while affordability of furniture was important for lower income families, with long term financing being available, lower income families should continue to be able to buy new furniture even if it was slightly more expensive.



Mr. Sparber said the Fire Marshals supported giving the staff the additional time to address the toxicity issues.

Mr. Wakelyn said there was an unfounded emphasis on this issues in some European countries such as Germany.

The Commissioner asked Mr. Sparber if the Fire Marshals were going to get involved in the toxicity issue. Mr. Sparber indicated they were consulting a number of people, including Gordon Damant. He went on to say that the less clear toxicity issues had to be balanced with the very real fire problems.

Mr. Sparber said the commission needed to take the time to get the right answers to the toxicity issues, even if it took a year, it was important to do it right.

Commissioner Moore indicated he wanted to get as much information from as many people as possible and he wanted to hear it now rather than before the Commission makes a decision.

Mr. Sparber went on to say that the failure to deal with foam in the standard was a big mistake: the Commission should be trying to prevent the big fires; preventing ignition will affect the number of fires but only by preventing big fires can you reduce deaths and injuries.

Ms. Weller asked Mr. Sparber about the mention in the Fire Marshals' petition about a paper by Mr. Krasny with regard to a water treatment of cotton that would reduce cigarette ignition of cotton fabric. Mr. Wakelyn said the paper was really a letter to the editor and there had been several responses to it and the bottom line was that there was no simple water method for cotton because of the various finishes that had to be put on it.

Commissioner Moore thanked Mr. Sparber for the informative meeting.