



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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FINAL

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LEGISLATIVE

Our legislative program seemed simple, seemed to fit the needs of all retailers and would have been beneficial to all consumers. You would think that with this as a starting point we could expect to be successful.

- R - Retail Credit Sales Act
- B - Business Inventory Tax Repeal
- R - Retailer's Collection Fee

NEXT
YEAR

It's not too early to think about next year, right NOW. No person, nor no organization, is better able to 'carry the ball' for the consuming public than is SDRA. Our members meet and visit with consumers every day.

Our members make sure the consumer is satisfied. No state official, no state commission, no private organization, nor no one individual, is better equipped to speak for the consumer than is SDRA. It's up to you, the retailer, to inform the officers and directors of SDRA what our legislative plans should be for 1973.

RETAIL
CREDIT
SALES
ACT

Attorney General Gordon Mydland spoke loudly and clearly in opposition to South Dakota retailers receiving a reasonable rate for offering credit to customers. He made no complaint about the rates being charged by BankAmericard and Master Charge (which are higher than we requested) but spoke out

vehemently against the unconscionable conduct of local retailers. Evidently, hoping to make some points in his U. S. Senate race.

Les Kleven, owner of Radio Station KBHB, Sturgis, filled legislators with innuendos and half-truths as he constantly preached the theory that the credit rates retailers wanted to charge were too high and that retailers were already making too much profit. It's very mysterious how a radio man can pound the streets of western communities asking for advertising while at the same time he is knifing those same prospective customers in the back. Frankly, the rates on Radio Station KBHB are too high. In addition, I have no intention of voting for Les Kleven as a legislator from Meade County.

Labor said our rates were too high and the Farmer's Union made special efforts to tell legislators this also. I suppose, we could make comments about hourly wages and the cost of certain products, but it doesn't seem as though we should be telling other people what it costs to do a job. It is surprising how many people, not in our business, know all about low costs and huge profits in the retail business.

BUSINESS INVENTORY TAX REPEAL

Legislators, Tax Committee members in particular, seem unable to understand the true significance of removing the Business Inventory Tax. Progressive thinking legislators from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming have eliminated this tax without adding a new and different tax. Removal of the tax has created such a phenomenal upswing in the economics of the state that new moneys generated have made up for the loss in revenue. Possibly you are not sold on this yourself. Sell yourself, then sell your prospective legislator. This takes a real united effort on the part of all retailers. What did YOU do this year to convince legislators that they should help the consumers and economics of South Dakota by removing the Business Inventory Tax?

RETAILER'S COLLECTION FEE

Ever session of the legislature bills are introduced; some are passed, which place an additional load upon people who hold a sales tax license. Sales tax licensees have been 'freegrat' tax collectors for the State since the inception of the sales tax. Twenty three states pay retailers for collecting and remitting the sales tax. The Department of Revenue realizes there is a cost involved in collecting the sales tax because it charges cities for the service of collecting the city sales tax. Most legislators agree that the state should pay retailers something for doing this work. It is a cost of doing business. If this cost could be reduced, consumers could expect a corresponding reduction in consumer products. Using this logic, we have every right to say that this legislation is really consumer benefit legislation. Sell yourself on this idea, then sell your prospective legislator. A Retailer's Collection Fee would keep some sales tax money in the local community and would help to hold down prices to consumers. What did YOU do this year to convince legislators that they should support this legislation?

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

As you know, our three point legislative program was not successful. BUT--Considerable legislation was introduced which would have been harmful to retailing. We were able to catch most of this. Through the use of various parliamentary procedures, very little, really harmful to retailing actually passed. Much of this credit must be given to various SDRA members who heeded the call and made various contacts regarding specific bills. The legislative process is the result of a series of vital confrontations between interested parties and legislators. Retailing must be prepared to tell its side of any question. Retailers are merely purchasing agents for South Dakota consumers, therefore, those things which affect retailing really affect all consumers. If there was only some way that we could prevail upon pro-consumer advocates to come and visit with us before they are too far along with what really becomes consumer damaging legislation. This is the only way to really save consumers from their self-appointed saviors.

Kerr