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By Famed Designer KENNETH ODY

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LETTERS

to the editor

Hearing aids

Sir:

May I thank you for your accurate and comprehensive reporting of our effort to secure the release of the tests on hearing aids (SN: 10/12, p. 360).

The Veterans Administration now indicates that its policy with reference to future tests in this field will be measurably altered.

This action will not disturb our suit which aims to establish the right of the public to the results of government consumer product testing.

Colston E. Warne, President
Consumers Union

Ask the dealer

Sir:

I read with considerable interest the article entitled "Hearing Aids" (SN: 10/12, p. 360).

Your readers would, I believe, benefit from some comments on the statement made in this article that if the layman had all of the information now in the hands of the Veterans Administration, he could select a hearing aid intelligently. The facts are first, that the National Bureau of Standards tests only a limited number of the many hearing aids that are offered in the United States and second, that the idea that the layman can take this information and solve his hearing aid selection problems is totally fallacious. The layman is just not equipped to understand the kind of technical information that is developed in the testing of hearing aids.

While the hearing aid industry and others interested in hearing aids have developed standard methods of testing hearing aids, there still remain many questions of interpretation as to what particular physical measurements mean in terms of how well the hard-of-hearing actually hear with hearing aids.

The person best qualified to maximize the effectiveness of a hearing aid for the vast majority of persons, after all possible medical assistance has been rendered, is the hearing aid dealer, whose total experience in applying hearing aids far exceeds that of any other group. He can select and adjust hearing aids, provide the important accessories required, such as earmolds, and can render the after-sale counsel and the continuing service over the life of the hearing aid so vital to the hearing aid user.

It would be a great disservice to the hard-of-hearing public to have them believe that their problems would be

