

Mr. WILLIAMS. That is all I have. Thank you.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. Minish?

Mr. MINISH. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Mr. RHODES. Did I understand you to say earlier that you worked for the Agriculture Department?

Mr. RHODES. I did from 1934 to 1960.

Mr. MINISH. 1960? Did you not also say that they just about wrecked the cotton futures market?

Mr. RHODES. Yes.

Mr. MINISH. Is that while you were there or after you left?

Mr. RHODES. Part of it was done while I was there and it was finished off after I was there.

Mr. MINISH. Did you administer the cotton program?

Mr. RHODES. I administered the cotton program in the Department of Agriculture from 1952 to 1960 under the supervision of the then Secretary Ezra Taft Benson.

Mr. MINISH. Do you feel the actions of the Agriculture Department might have resulted in higher costs to the consumer?

Mr. RHODES. The price-support programs of the Department of Agriculture unquestionably increased the cost to the consumer. I don't think there would be any question whatever about that because the price of cotton during the years that I was in the Department was held up in the neighborhood of 32 cents to 35 cents a pound in this country, and it was being sold throughout the world from the low to middle 20 cents a pound. It is the chief ingredient in most household products.

Mr. MINISH. Do you want equal time, Mr. Caldwell?

Mr. CALDWELL. Mr. Rhodes is more familiar with that since I did not come under the cotton authority jurisdiction.

Mr. MINISH. Mr. Rhodes, you mentioned earlier the foreign markets—do they set margins in foreign countries?

Mr. RHODES. Yes; sure, they have margins.

Mr. MINISH. Can you tell us what they are?

Mr. RHODES. No, sir; I wouldn't be capable of telling you what the margin in India or Japan or even Liverpool is. The Liverpool market is very, very thin, too, now.

Mr. MINISH. Dr. Gray, I note that the New York Commodity Exchange filed a statement with the committee but did not come in. Do you feel that the trading of silver which is important to this committee had a bearing on the speculation in silver?

Mr. GRAY. I don't understand your question. I am sorry.

Mr. MINISH. The New York Commodity Exchange filed a statement but did not come in. They trade in silver, which is very important to this committee. Would you or any of the other gentlemen say that the speculation last May or June had any impact in the increase in the price of silver?

Mr. GRAY. The speculation in silver futures provided the opportunity for people to adapt to the inevitable price rise in silver. Silver users and producers could adapt to that rising price rise if they had the wisdom to do so by trading in future contracts.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. Bingham?

Mr. BINGHAM. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am interested in the comments made by Mr. Theis about the necessity of controlling