An analysis also was made from the Bureau's existing records of the comparative quality of rental housing. In general, homes occupied by low-income families were more often of lower quality than those occupied by families with higher incomes, even when they paid the same rent. Low-income families lived in poor-quality neighborhoods, and higher proportions of them occupied deteriorating or dilapidated housing at comparable rents. Heating equipment in housing occupied by low-income families was often inferior, and many of them had to share a bathroom with other families, without enjoying commensurately lower rents for such deficiencies.

It remains true that much of the information collected by BLS has not been published in a form that is most meaningful to the average consumer. Indexes, for example, are useful tools for market researchers, for economists in charting our battle against inflation, and for determining the amount of wage escalation in union-management contracts. The average consumer finds it difficult to relate an index to his own experience.

The price data collected by BLS can be analyzed and presented in such a way as to be more understandable and useful to the individual consumer. Let me list some examples of how this can be done. I know that the committee will understand that the Bureau would require additional resources to develop a full-scale program of consumer education.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me ask you a question which is somewhat off the point here but is certainly relevant to this subcommittee.

All the other information you collected about the discrepancy and differences between what the poor consumer pays or the poor renter gets in terms of housing, what you begin talking about on the bottom of page 3 and running to the top of page 4—do you make this information available to political scientists and Government leaders?

Mr. ROSS. Well, this information was published, Mr. Chairman, and it was widely noted in the press. Yes; it is certainly available to political scientists and the others you mentioned. I don't have information on how many of them have used it, but it was published and we did all we could together with the Commission on Food Marketing and the Office of Economic Opportunity to bring it to the attention of the public.

There were press conferences, news releases; other devices of that type were used. I did see a few references to it on television news programs. I am not really up to date on the total extent of utilization of the survey.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. But other than food items this other factual information on inferior housing and credit costs together with the conclusions you referred to, were they ever disseminated throughout either the Federal or State Governments?

Mr. ROSS. Yes. Well, Mr. Chairman, that study was made on contract for the Office of Economic Opportunity. We did publish a summary in our publication the Monthly Labor Review which has a circulation of around 13,000 and is considered an authoritative magazine; we published a summary there of the information concerning rental housing and other items.

The full detail was supplied to the Office of Economic Opportunity because it was done on contract for them. I don't believe they have published it as yet.