ple including people in Washington and our six regional offices. Above and beyond that there are some so-called daily rate employees who are hired on a more casual basis to help in the collection of prices in certain cities where our regular staff is not sufficiently large.

Mr. MYERS. Now these letters that you say you received which run into the thousands, can you tell or have you tried to tell whether that comes from the consuming public or industry?

Mr. ROSS. Both. We get a lot of letters from the general public. We get a lot of letters from businessmen and the other financial organizations and people in industry. But I don't want—I wouldn't want to claim that the average general consumer is directly in touch with BLS or that he gets a great deal of our information.

Mr. MYERS. On pages 3 and 4 you talk about the housing and you also—the survey you made for OEO and the National Commission of Food Marketing——

Mr. ROSS. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. You also talk about the poor usually buying in small quantities and from smaller stores where it was more expensive to buy. You also then go further and talk about five examples of how these people might improve their buying position.

Do you think really there is anything you can do for those people? Do you think you can put out a pamphlet which you are suggesting that the people buying in smaller stores now could walk three blocks and buy cheaper, will they read the pamphlet?

Mr. ROSS. This listing of five items didn't have any particular reference to poor people. The question that the chairman asked me to comment on was: What could the BLS do for consumers in general?

Mr. MYERS. Most of the consumers are poor. I think we are, aren't we?

Mr. ROSS. Well, this study of the poor really was concentrating on a minority.

Mr. MYERS. Who need the most help?

Mr. ROSS. Who need the most help.

Obviously, different groups of consumers would have to be reached in different ways. My listing on pages 5, 6, 7, and 8 is rather general—the types of things that the Bureau might do for consumers in general. Of course there are all kinds of consumers, as you indicated.

Mr. MYERS. Well, each day, especially in the last few weeks, we have been hearing charges all over the country that Congress should be doing more to help in poor areas.

What do you suggest your agency might do to help these people? How would you reach these people? How can you reach these people who need the help but don't seem to be helping themselves and want somebody to help or do it for them?

Mr. ROSS. Well, I have to answer kind of off the cuff because in line with the request we had we were thinking about consumers in general. But off the cuff I would say that many of the poor people in slum and ghetto areas are very unsophisticated as consumers. Many of them have come up into the cities from the country, from rural areas recently. Many of them don't have a good education and they do not consume wisely.

I am not really a poverty expert and I hate to pretend to be one, but I think that through community action organizations under the poverty program and various other ways, a great deal of work would