

but we felt they had to be stopped. We considered the possibility that they were true and what the upshot would be. As a former newspaperwoman, I figured we would have to face congressional and executive investigation—as we are—and skimp on the needs of our families and run up some pretty shocking babysitting bills—which we certainly are.

And at the risk of being schmaltzy, there was a moment of reckoning in that alley when I had to face the memories of my own poverty as a child and, as anyone who has ever had a basket left on their doorstep can tell you, the welfare syndrome leaves deep scars. For the rest of your life, you are inevitably and invisibly bound to those on relief, whatever their color or their education or their reason for poverty. That is your karass.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We have been joined this morning by the distinguished ranking minority member, Congresswoman Florence P. Dwyer, from New Jersey.

Mrs. KELLY. While the horrors of hunger can be forgotten, the fear of hunger cannot. I tell you this so that you will know that for me at least, this investigation was more a debt of honor than a vote-reaching venture for my party. As unlikely as the charges were, I couldn't personally turn my back on the people on welfare any more than I could turn my back on myself.

Before giving her complaint, Mrs. Boyd and six of her friends had done comparative shopping at seven Safeways on July 1, with seven identical lists. Their bills were not the same.

Next, the Democrats did a preliminary check of four Safeways on a half-dozen items on August 1 and found enough discrepancies to warrant further study.

Mrs. Boyd became cochairman of the party's Ad Hoc Committee for Equal Pricing with Mrs. Lisa Schlossberg, an experienced comparative shopper who learned those ropes in the 1966 boycott. She is from Boston, a graduate in African studies at Goddard College, who worked in this field both in Africa and in the United States.

They organized this study of nine Safeways, using a list of 20 items, 18 of which had been supplied by Mrs. Boyd because of their popularity in her buying club.

Eight of us shopped, three times, on Tuesday, August 15, Friday, September 1, and Friday, September 15. Before going, we had legal advice, of course, as we have had throughout this study, and we found that neither the purchases nor the tapes would be as valid as eyewitness reports, and also that our reports were more conclusive than preprinted company pricing orders from headquarters. Besides, we couldn't afford to tie up our grocery money for this eventual confrontation, and we were still so sure it couldn't be true. I suppose we were just biding time until the long summer ended.

On Sunday, September 17, Mrs. Schlossberg and I met with Mrs. Boyd in her living room to compare the prices for the first time. Mrs. Schlossberg will discuss these figures with you in detail, but let us note now that the major September 1 poverty tax was levied almost exclusively in neighborhoods where the Safeway has monopolistic powers.

We also found three perishable items recorded at Safeway which were above the advertised prices.

The crux of our charges, however, is the devastating manner in