

**STATEMENT OF MRS. KENNETH SCHLOSSBERG, COCHAIRMAN, AD
HOC COMMITTEE FOR EQUAL PRICING, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Mrs. SCHLOSSBERG. Mr. Chairman and members of this subcommittee, I wish to emphasize that none of us on the Ad Hoc Committee for Equal Pricing are either economists, lawyers, or statisticians. Besides the fact that we are concerned and outraged by the unjust practices committed against fellow citizens who can least afford such discrimination, we are ourselves consumers. It is the consumer who goes out several times weekly to purchase the food her family needs. It is the consumer, the individual housewife and shopper, upon whom the economy of this country is ultimately based. The housewife must use her careful searching eye to shop out those items which her budget can afford. This perhaps is our most legitimate qualification. We are not examining price lists or statistics behind a desk in a neat office far removed from the shoppers' reality. We are out daily or weekly or monthly walking up and down supermarket aisles purchasing that which will appear on our families' tables. It is for this reason that we are geared to examining prices and to comparing them with a determination that professionals cannot employ.

The charts and graphs that we have prepared from our research speak for themselves. They point up without question the unfair pricing practices which exist. They show that prices on a given item on a given day are not consistent throughout the city. And, further, they are consistently higher in certain areas serving large numbers of welfare and low-income families. The most shocking and outrageous of our findings is the fact that the prices of items we used in our survey increase by from 3 to 57 percent in some lower income area stores on the first of the month, at which time welfare checks are issued and the largest number of food stamps are spent.

It is just this kind of practice that causes great discontent and bitterness in the slum areas of our major cities and is a primary factor in making situations ripe for violence, riots, and bloodshed.

Job opportunity programs and other very valuable and commendable projects being undertaken by the poverty program and other Government agencies will do much to improve the climate in these trouble areas. But it will not be, until all forms of discrimination and misuse such as the pricing practices of Safeway are stopped, that this country can eliminate summers of violence such as we had this past July and August.

We sincerely hope that justice will be served by your committee and that action will be taken quickly. People on welfare, as we all know, have less than enough to survive on and an average food overpayment of 9.1 percent which we believe is a poverty tax people in low-income areas are now paying on food, could determine whether or not a family has enough to eat from month to month.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you.

Mrs. KELLY. Do you want us to give out these graphs to the members of the subcommittee?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yes. Will you also tell us where the stores numbered 1 to 9 are located—and as to stores numbered 1, 2, and 3, where their nearest competition is, if any?

(The map referred to follows; graphs appear on pp. 19-22.)