

they encourage to be in there and that it would be better to spend the same money in more clerks.

Mr. REUSS. I recognize the right of any store to protect itself against pilferage, but I think that a store doing an areawide business has an obligation to provide equal service in all of its stores.

I have no further questions.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Before Mrs. Dwyer begins, I would like to say that Mrs. Dwyer is well known not only in Congress and in New Jersey, but throughout the country as a constant champion of the consumer. She has been very much interested in this subject and has participated in the preparation of recent inquiries and in many others.

Mrs. DWYER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I want to say to you how much I welcome these hearings and how pleased I am that the subcommittee has responded so quickly to evidence of possible price discrimination against the poor in certain food stores. Whatever may result from these hearings, I believe it is most important to investigate. Price discrimination is difficult to justify under any circumstances.

I would like to ask Mrs. Kelly this question:

To your knowledge has the Federal Trade Commission, the OEO or any other Federal agency sought information or complaints from individuals in your neighborhood concerning whether the poor pay more?

Mrs. KELLY. The gentleman from the Federal Trade Commission, Mr. Corkey, is here, and he is the one to answer that. To my knowledge the Federal Trade Commission has not until this particular incident came up. The OEO, the UPO, is doing a study currently. I question the value of it. Janie got the report on it. It goes in for things like filet mignon and strip steaks and that kind of thing.

They also did not have a questionnaire, apparently, like we did, so that when we go in and price bananas as of that day, and another one prices apples, and another prices oranges—

Mrs. DWYER. Have you personally, or has your group, gone to them with these complaints and the charges?

Mrs. KELLY. I checked with the consumer education person and found that they were doing this, but because we are political, the political party is sponsoring this, they are not allowed to work with us. We would have to drop our political affiliation to work with the poverty program. We did it better.

Mrs. DWYER. Of course, I would prefer that you organize as women rather than as a political party to fight for all consumers—not just for yourselves, because Republicans are just as much interested as the Democrats.

Mrs. KELLY. In fact, I understand that the UPO study is being done at the request of Senator Percy.

Mrs. DWYER. Thank you. That is all.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you.

At this point I would like to read into the record a telegram addressed to me as chairman of this special consumer inquiry.

I understand that you are conducting inquiries on the consumer problems of low-income groups and want to inform you that as chairman of Mayor Lindsay's Council on Consumer Affairs during the course of the past summer we have been doing neighborhood surveys of food prices, with particular attention to price differential by income level. There is some evidence that indeed in certain low-