

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Your office does not have the information, and no other branch of the executive has the information.

Mr. ROSS. As I was going to say, Mr. Chairman, we do not have that kind of money at the moment, but we are trying to see what we can do with what we have. I have scheduled a meeting of all of our regional directors in Washington to discuss fully what can be done within our existing resources to exploit our information and to make it usable for local and State problems.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do I conclude that you do not have the temerity to ask the Congress for more money?

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chairman, I have asked the Congress for a great deal more money, but the problem is that the Congress has not given it. Of course, our budget is scrutinized by the Secretary of Labor and by the Budget Bureau. This year the increase recommended by the appropriations subcommittee, which, of course, we do not have yet is, I believe, less than 10 percent of what Secretary Wirtz and the president asked Congress for. The increased work by the BLS would have involved heavy emphasis on consumer price information.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. When you went to Vietnam was it on a matter related to consumer problems?

Mr. ROSS. No, sir.

Mr. REUSS. Will you yield?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yes.

Mr. REUSS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As you know, I think that you and your associates are doing a good job. I am grateful to you for coming here this morning.

Mr. ROSS. Thank you.

Mr. REUSS. I have just two or three questions.

In your study of June 12, 1966, "Prices Charged in Food Stores Located in the Low- and Higher-Income Areas of Six Large Cities"—that is the one that you have been talking about?

Mr. ROSS. Yes, sir.

Mr. REUSS. You did not, as I read the study, gear it as the ladies did in their study, to a first-of-the-month date—the date when welfare checks are first available; a time when many low-income people do a large chunk of food shopping because the money has about run out?

Mr. ROSS. That is true, in general. We did make a little check in one area. I hesitate to mention, because it was so small.

Mr. REUSS. Was that in Washington?

Mr. ROSS. It was in the Watts area of Los Angeles. We did make a check there. It was extremely small. It was for 18 items. Let me make sure of the dates. We came back in the first week of March. You will recall I said that the pricing was the last week in February. We came back into a few stores and checked on the 18 items only in the area of Watts in the first week of March, which was after the welfare checks were disseminated in Watts. We did find that among the items where the prices were changed there had been more price increases in the Watts area than there had been in the higher income areas of Los Angeles. We found also that the price increases were more frequent for the items that were the volume sellers in the low-income area than they were for the items that were the volume sellers in the high-income area, where there was a difference. That was what we found, but as I say, it was a very small check. And I might say that this kind