

knowledge of what was charged on those dates, certainly I have a lot less and I do not wish to comment in any way upon that controversy.

Mr. REUSS. I appreciate that. My question was in the field of general commonsense.

Mr. ROSS. As general commonsense it is possible to raise prices and increase profits; yes.

Mr. REUSS. That is all.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Congressman Myers.

Mr. MYERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In your discussion with Mr. Reuss you were talking about the Watts area and your survey out there. Was it chainstores that you conducted the investigation in?

Mr. ROSS. Yes; yes.

Mr. MYERS. How many chainstores did you go into?

Mr. ROSS. No; we had chainstores, small independent stores, and large independent stores.

Mr. MYERS. They all showed similarly the same conditions; is that correct?

Mr. ROSS. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. Also, other stores—all of the stores in the Watts area then were in that?

Mr. ROSS. Well, we did not have every store in the Watts area.

Mr. MYERS. The ones—

Mr. ROSS. We had a sample; yes.

Mr. MYERS. In your monthly Labor Review of October of 1966 you make several notations, one of which is the fact that you say that some items in the poor areas are more expensive, while at the same time some of the items in the poor areas are cheaper; is that correct?

Mr. ROSS. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. Maybe one particular item will be higher in the poor area than it will be in the middle-class area?

Mr. ROSS. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. But also you state that some of it will be cheaper, is that correct?

Mr. ROSS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MYERS. Yes?

Mr. ROSS. On the average, the prices were higher but as you suggested there were many otherwise.

Mr. MYERS. They were generally higher. Did you really make enough of a sampling in these areas to draw any conclusion?

Mr. ROSS. I believe so.

Mr. MYERS. Your conclusion says that the food surveys which were published earlier have created widespread comment about the need of supermarkets and the cost advantage in the poor neighborhoods. You did not say anything about prices there. You said that few price comparisons can be made from the survey but that the buying habits differ from those in other areas, in 1966. You did not draw any such conclusion in 1966?

Mr. ROSS. I do not recall that particular article that you are quoting from. The study itself, which is a much longer study, did reach the conclusion that on the average that the food prices are higher in the low-income areas.