

Mr. TAHA. Only on items that I feel will be, for instance, spoiled. And in this case we give the customer the advantage of the price by reducing that merchandise instead of putting it in the garbage disposal.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. How often do any of your supervisors or district managers come around to check prices?

Mr. TAHA. Well, I see my district manager, who has been recently appointed—I have seen him every week once, except 2 weeks I saw him twice.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Does he check prices?

Mr. TAHA. And I saw him once checking prices; yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. He was recently appointed?

Mr. TAHA. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. When was that?

Mr. TAHA. About 5 weeks, 6 weeks ago, I will say.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now, the man who was there before him, how often did he come around and check prices?

Mr. TAHA. I would say about the same routine, every 3 weeks or so.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Every 3 weeks you walked around with him, and he looked at the prices?

Mr. TAHA. Sometimes, yes. If I am busy, if I don't have assistants, or if I have to be up front to OK checks, he would go along by himself.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What time of the month did he come and do that?

Mr. TAHA. Well, the middle of the month, the third week of the month, the second week of the month. There's no actual table actually—whenever he feels like it.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Why does he go around and check the prices?

Mr. TAHA. They check for carelessness. We have to protect our company—I know it's for carelessness because with the standard of employees at the present time, as everybody knows, as every company and the Government knows, everybody has lowered the standards, for instance, of hiring employees. You don't get, for instance, as ambitious employees as we used to get before, and those employees do make quite a few mistakes sometimes.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do you find a large number of mistakes in prices?

Mr. TAHA. Not very large. If I do find a few things, I have a record from which I write my employee a memo—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. These mistakes, do you find them below sometimes book value?

Mr. TAHA. Well, most below.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do you ever find a mistake above book value?

Mr. TAHA. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. In what items?

Mr. TAHA. And I would say most of the mistakes, or 98 percent of the mistakes are in the very slow-seller lines which even the employees do not have very much, what you call, knowledge of it.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. So there would not be an item such as Townhouse peas or Del Monte peaches or Crisco or Cheerios, none of those items?

Mr. TAHA. Absolutely not, because the employee works these items every single day of the week, or every week once or twice, filling and refilling, and he is the least subject to make an error in such items.