

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do you have your best employees working on the fast-selling items?

Mr. TAHA. All the employees that we have are the two stockmen, and they are working—my assistants cut and mark for them right from the book, and they price them. And we catch, sometimes, prices that went down by mistake. There are human errors.

I will give you an example.

Let's take, for instance, chili con carne. An employee won't take the time to look at it, for instance, to see if it's with beans or without beans, and he will stamp them both 39 cents while one should be 45 cents. These are the human errors that happen very often in the store.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Alexander, your store is where?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Sixth and H NE.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. And how long have you been a manager?

Mr. ALEXANDER. 1960.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Seven years now.

You have been made aware of the charges that these ladies made about the prices going up on the first of the month?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. How do you explain that?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I don't feel there is any information that they are true.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do you think there is any possibility you may be mistaken?

Mr. ALEXANDER. There's a possibility, for wrong prices in one store, but never in the store intentionally.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now, are you permitted to raise prices in your store?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Only when I receive an advance and decline sheet from the zone office.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. And how often does your supervisor come around and check your prices?

Mr. ALEXANDER. He visits my store approximately three times a week.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Now, why does he come to your store three times a week and to his store once every 3 weeks?

Mr. ALEXANDER. We have different supervisors—district managers. I am sorry. District managers.

Mr. WINSTEAD. He is correcting the title to district manager.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Why is that, Mr. Winstead?

Mr. WINSTEAD. I do not believe that I could say that the same problems or the same complex work or requirements are required to operate every store within our division. Some stores require more supervision than others. Some require more help than others. And that is—the intent of our supervision is to give what is needed.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What is the difference between these two stores that one requires three-times-a-week surveillance and one once every 3 weeks?

Mr. WINSTEAD. Correction, sir. I don't believe we said once every 3 weeks.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I think you did.

Mr. TAHA. You asked about price checking.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Oh, he comes around—