

Would each of the managers tell me how far the nearest bank is from your store that you can get these food stamps at?

Mr. ALEXANDER. We don't get food stamps.

Mr. MILEY. We don't purchase the stamps.

Mr. MYERS. The customer does, though.

How far is it from your store to the nearest banks?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Two blocks.

Mr. MYERS. Two blocks. And it's about the same distance to another store, I think, in your testimony.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes.

Mr. MYERS. Store No. 6?

Mr. COOL. Three blocks.

Mr. MYERS. Still about the same distance.

Store No. 1, I guess, isn't it?

Mr. MILEY. May I say something?

My bank is within two doors of my store, but my customers that do live in the poverty area, in the high rise and the tenant houses have to go uptown somewhere to purchase their stamps.

Mr. MYERS. They can't get them at the——

Mr. MILEY. They can't get them at this bank. The people from uptown have to come down to my bank to purchase their stamps.

Well, my customers come in, they get the checks cashed. They take off uptown somewhere, wherever they are designated to cash their—to buy their stamps, and then they come back with the stamps and make the purchases.

Mr. MYERS. So they do pass other chainstores going to get their stamps?

Mr. MILEY. They do.

Mr. MYERS. OK.

How about—you don't have any food stamps, I guess, in your area.

Mr. DOGRA. No, sir.

Mr. MYERS. OK.

Mr. TAHA. I would like to elaborate on those unfortunate people who have to buy those food stamps.

They go to the bank and the bank refuses to cash their checks, even if they have the card to buy their stamps from there. The bank refuses and will not cash their checks.

Mr. MYERS. Their welfare——

Mr. TAHA. Absolutely. We have to cash those checks for them. And I have a few customers—we could not, as a matter of fact, deal with this——

Mr. MYERS. Does the bank just refuse, or do they do it for a charge?

Mr. TAHA. Absolutely. They do not cash them at all. And I talked to some people from the bank, and I talked to the public welfare people, and I requested them that they should go to the Welfare Department and tell them that the bank refuses to cash their checks, and they have to go outside, travel so long somewhere where they are known, like some people come in from an area in, let's say, Northeast or Southeast who used to live in my area. And we cash the check for them as a courtesy, and they never come back to buy a thing.

Mr. MYERS. How far do they have to go to get their food stamps?

Mr. TAHA. That depends on a designated——

Mr. MYERS. The nearest distance from your store?