

I am a cosponsor of a rather strong meat-inspection bill with Congressmen Smith and Foley, and others, and this has to do with getting additional meats included under Federal inspection.

We have received samples of meat that were purchased in Maryland that were not inspected by the Department of Agriculture, and a number of them were of poor quality, and adulterated, and so on.

What type of meats do you handle? Is it USDA inspected?

Do you handle meats that are not inspected by the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. WINSTEAD. We are so proud of our meat reputation. That is the most important part of our store. We sell only USDA-inspected, choice-grade beef in our stores, and we sell some prime beef.

Other items, I would have to refresh my memory on the source of origin on the other meat items, but we always buy the best top-quality merchandise, whether it be packaged, carcass, or whatever product it might be. I am not familiar enough with the grades of which you speak to make a definite statement on some package items that might be sold in the store.

Mr. GUDE. The meats that were purchased in these particular samples, in these surveys, were uninspected. I mean they weren't marked "inspected" by the Department of Agriculture.

Do you handle meats that are not inspected by the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. WINSTEAD. I would like to refer to our records on that, but I would like to make this comment, and then I will explain to you why I want to refer to records.

We operate a meat warehouse along with the other warehouses in this distribution center. We ship meats to all stores in the division from the one central warehouse. This warehouse is under U.S. Government inspection—complete.

Now, the reason I asked deference on the one question, on occasion in some localities we buy some delicatessen items, as an example, at a local source, and I cannot truthfully give the full answer on that until I have had an opportunity to look at all the records.

Mr. GUDE. Well, would you mean, then, that all of your fresh meats are USDA inspected?

Mr. WINSTEAD. No question about beef.

May I refer to records on this, please?

Mr. GUDE. I wonder if you could give us a statement at this point in the record on meat.

Mr. WINSTEAD. In my comment on full U.S. Government inspection, of course, I referenced our warehouse information. I would like to get the background before I answer fully, sir.

(The information was subsequently furnished, as follows:)

SAFeway STORES, INC.,
Landover, Md., October 31, 1967.

HON. BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL,
Chairman, Special Studies Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROSENTHAL: During Safeway's appearance on Thursday, October 12, 1967, before the Special Studies Subcommittee, we were requested to submit for the hearing record a statement regarding the extent to which the fresh meats stocked by the stores in Safeway's Washington, D.C. Retail Division, were inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.