

This will advise that all fresh meats stocked in this Division are inspected by the Meat Inspection Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely Yours,

BASIL WINSTEAD,
Vice President and Division Manager,
Washington, D.C., Division.

Mr. GUDE. In regard to the district managers, their job is the routine checking of prices—I mean that is one of their duties.

Mr. WINSTEAD. The district managers are totally responsible for the management and the operation of the stores in their particular district, and price checks are a part of both their responsibility and duty. And they are completely responsible to see that proper prices are charged in those stores under their supervision at their level.

Mr. GUDE. All right.

How many stores on the average does each district manager supervise?

Mr. WINSTEAD. Average, about 14 stores per district.

Mr. GUDE. Per district?

Mr. WINSTEAD. That's right.

Mr. GUDE. One manager has 14 stores?

Mr. WINSTEAD. Approximately.

Mr. GUDE. Would there be any rough estimate that could be made of what percentage of their time is spent checking food prices, or is it lumped in with the many other duties on visiting the stores?

Mr. WINSTEAD. We have not made a complete time study on this particular facet of our business. We do not have that information.

Mr. GUDE. Well, Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to congratulate you on having these hearings. I think this is a two-edged sword. Certainly, you know, if evidence could be uncovered that systematically lower prices were charged in, you might say, areas where there was a higher economic level, why we certainly should take some very direct action. On the other hand, if this cannot be proven, I think that full public record should be made of that, also, in fairness to the chainstores.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. WINSTEAD. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We are going to try and finish in 5 minutes because we have one other witness today.

Mr. WINSTEAD. May I comment?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yes, sir.

Mr. WINSTEAD. Make one comment on district management, please? And I think this is important.

You have here these store managers today, and the three stores referred to as poverty-area stores managed by three managers here are in fact on three separate districts. Our districts come in in a wedge shape to the city. These are all in different districts managed by a different man in each case.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Dogra, you represent what we have classified, or what the women have classified as store No. 6?

Mr. DOGRA. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yours is really a quality store and apparently sells quality merchandise.

Have you seen this chart before that's up on the wall?

Mr. DOGRA. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. And you can see that for your store prices are