

Mr. GALLAGHER. What amount?

Mrs. APONTE. 207 demonstration.

Mr. GALLAGHER. What amount?

Mrs. APONTE. \$200,000. And in that specific budget, no money was allocated to do comparison shopping the way we are supposed to be doing it, by buying the same articles. We requested a loan from the Comparative League in order to be able to purchase the articles. U.S. Comparative League.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Who sponsors the U.S. Comparative League?

Mrs. APONTE. The U.S. Comparative League is an independent organization, as far as I know.

Mr. GALLAGHER. How is that funded?

Mrs. APONTE. I don't know. It has to be an individual transaction.

Mr. GALLAGHER. What were the other purposes of the \$200,000 grant?

Mrs. APONTE. Well, the \$200,000 grant is for the purpose of demonstrating through a consumer education project that the poor in the residence areas come together with the merchants, can overcome their problems as consumers, to establish a credit union for the poor, to deal with problems of garnishees through the assistance of a lawyer for the specific residents, refer the residents to the different social services of the city like the welfare department, have them fill in applications, but basically it is to demonstrate that through an economic tool which is the credit union and through consumer education, the poorest consumer can get sophisticated and alerted enough as to get the best value for their dollar spent.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Was anything more done to determine whether or not this was a pattern, than the purchases made on November 14 and November 16?

Mrs. APONTE. No, sir. As I said before, we can't be talking of priority of a pattern taking place. I said, and I repeated clearly, that this comparison shopping tour is a tool. If we find in our purchases, or if any housewife finds in her purchases, that she can buy products at a lower price in Flatbush than in Bedford-Stuyvesant, that the owners or the managers of these stores sit down in roundtable meetings with the persons or the consumer to sit down with what are the causes of this situation, and find the ways and the means for a beneficial solution to both.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Did anyone go back after the 16th, say on the 17th or 18th, to see if the prices dropped again?

Mrs. APONTE. No, sir; we are going to follow up.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Could this be interpreted as a normal rise, or do you think it might be specifically aimed at—

Mrs. APONTE. I can't project what is going to happen. I have to go and see and then I will be able to know.

Mr. GALLAGHER. That is why I was just wondering whether or not it might be reflecting a price increase generally, and therefore, if someone went back on the 17th or the 18th, it might be of interest to see whether or not the prices drop.

Mrs. APONTE. It will be interesting.

As a matter of fact, we are going to follow up, but we can't make any statements prior to the fact.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I have no further questions.