

The findings were:

(1) That in "A" store we paid \$0.18 more on November 16 than on November 14.

(2) That in "B" store we paid also \$0.18 more on November 16 than on November 14.

(3) That in "C" store we paid \$0.12 more on November 16 than on November 14.

(4) That in "D" store we paid \$0.45 more on November 16 than on November 14.

(5) That in "E" store we paid \$0.34 more on November 16 than on November 14.

What do these facts mean to the Bedford-Stuyvesant residents?

What do they mean to the businesses involved?

What do they mean to CABS Corp. as an interested and concerned party?

As the executive director and the delegate of the 2,000 members of the CABS Corp., I want to stress once and for all that "comparison shopping" is not a weapon for patronizing or discrediting any store, but rather as a tool of negotiation in order to achieve one of our most innovative goals, that is to bridge the gap between consumer and business.

As a consumer action program our highest goal is to promote, develop, and preserve a healthy free enterprise system within the "ghetto" marketing conditions.

Dialog has to take place. The door is open. Let's make the best of it.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Our next witness is Mr. Stephen Press, director, MEND consumer education program.

Mr. Press, if you are ready we will begin in a moment. Mrs. Aponte, I wanted to compliment you for all the good work you have done, and regardless of what one thinks of the conclusions or the outcome, any dialog is a very useful thing, and certainly a plus in making ours a more viable democracy.

Mr. Press, do you want to begin, please?

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN PRESS, DIRECTOR, MEND CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAM, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mr. PRESS. Yes. Before I get into my prepared remarks, I would like to say a few things related to what I will talk about. First of all, I am sure my program would have been able to do a far more effective job if our funds would not have been cut off on the 15th of September.

We were not extended by the city of New York, and since there are problems in Washington with the poverty program, we had to let most of our staff go. We did exist a while on foundation funds, and they ran out, and we are presently existing on myself, an assistant and a secretary as far as directly paid staff is concerned.

The second thing I wanted to comment on is that of all the chains I will talk about, and that have been talked about here today, the A. & P. is the only chain, as far as I am concerned, that has shown any real interest in dealing with its own problems and has worked closely with us on the various things that we have dealt with, the various problems they have in their own chain.

The third thing is, if you turn to exhibit A in the back of my testimony [the complete text of Mr. Press' remarks appears at the conclusion of his testimony] you will see that I have a copy of the Congressional Record from July 13, 1965, and marked in that copy is a little section of a letter to Mrs. Esther Peterson, and that section