

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I have an idea. We might adjourn now until 1:30 and if you had an hour's time to look this over, do you think you could be precise in responding to the charge?

Mr. VAN LENTEN. I think we can probably identify it as being items which perhaps we carry but as far as investigating it all the way through, we wouldn't have time to make—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. In an investigation all the way through you will never come up with anything because you can't have anyone say what the price on a can was that day. But what you can do is if she has some products there that you don't carry, you could say that pretty quickly.

Mr. MCINERNEY. We should be able to. I believe we have the basket here. Do we have the basket you bought?

Mrs. APONTE. Not specifically the whole basket of A. & P. but if you look at the picture and the slips, you will have to relate to the A. & P. slip that we got with the amount, total amount and the pictures that we took of the food because we couldn't carry your specific basket here.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We will have an example of massive cooperation. She will work with you. You stay here and work with them for an hour and—

Mr. ERLNBORN. No lunch?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yes, that is right.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You can eat the Velveeta cheese. [Laughter.]

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We will be back at—Mr. Reid has a question.

Mr. REID. Mr. Vitulli, I would like to just pursue one question a little further because we received reports, some of them fairly recent, not necessarily with respect to a particular practice that seems to occur, and that is where a store or a chain advertises certain staples at a lower price on certain days, that some stores do not mark these items down on the day in question.

You said that most of your changes occur on Saturday, if I understand you. My question is this: Do you have the administrative system to be sure that all of your stores, and I think we are talking about 115 in the Bronx and Manhattan, actually do change the prices that are stamped, the actual label, on the commodity in the day in question where you have advertised A. & P. changes? Have you got the means of being sure those changes in prices are in fact on the items to be sold?

I am not talking about this being done deliberately in any sense, but just the failure of an individual store to do it.

Mr. VITULLI. The system we use in our stores, and this is required by policy and it is up to my supervisory staff to see it is followed and I observe it has been followed, is to take the price change list with them on Saturday. This list shows the items that are being reduced and the new retail.

Mr. REID. How many items would that be Mr. Vitulli?

Mr. VITULLI. It could vary anywhere from 40 to 60 items that are being reduced.

Mr. REID. And you would advertise those items on what day?

Mr. VITULLI. Oh. I would like to clarify a point at this time. The items that are reduced on Saturday are not reduced for the purpose of being advertised. We have a constant price structure where the grocery items are concerned and these we feel are the lowest and the fairest prices in the metropolitan area.

Mr. REID. But do you advertise some specials?