

Mr. ROSENTHAL. They were selling it to everybody else.

Mr. VITULLI. What I mean is this. Any time we check our refrigeration equipment, we check our refrigeration equipment daily, the first thing a manager does automatically, because a refrigeration breakdown is costly and involves a lot of work. That means everything has to be taken out and thrown out when you have a refrigeration breakdown.

Now, if that merchandise is not freezing, then he must put a call in immediately to our maintenance department. Perhaps it does need recharging. We do have breakdowns in refrigeration equipment, and coincidental with your visit this might have happened, but it certainly wouldn't be logical to assume that we would allow our merchandise to continually—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I'm sure you wouldn't, but it would be highly coincidental.

Mr. VITULLI. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The manager told us you will start altering that store on Monday, so maybe—

Mr. VITULLI. We would have started months ago, but it was a matter of getting bids and—yes, this store, we will spend between \$80,000 and \$100,000 in that store and the store just below it on 110th, and within the last year the nearest supermarket to this building, at 132d Street, and Fifth Avenue, we spent very close to \$100,000 remodeling that.

(The subcommittee was advised on January 4, 1968, that remodeling of the A. & P. store at 119th Street and Third Avenue will be completed at the end of January at a cost in excess of \$85,000.)

Mr. ROSENTHAL. This A. & P. on 119th and Third, you have no competition from any other supermarket except one one block north of A. & P.—and they're not in the same league with you in terms of purchasing power or flexibility. So virtually, for all practical intents and purposes, you have no competition.

Mr. VITULLI. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCINERNEY. That was one thing we meant to supplement this record on. Concern had been expressed earlier about the number of stores, or the lack of stores, in these poorer areas, as well as the condition of the stores. Of the 115 stores over which Mr. Vitulli has jurisdiction, some 29 of them are in the South Bronx and Harlem and similarly in other poorer areas.

We wanted to offer, as an exhibit, a letter received from Governor Hughes' office in New Jersey at the time of the Newark riots, as to the work the A. & P. men did in manning those stores throughout the riot. I think you will find that very few of A. & P.'s competitors compete with them in this way.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Without objection, it shall be included in the record. Without my having the benefit of reading the letter, I commend you for it. I think it's a useful thing. I think you probably agree with me that more can be done.

(The letter referred to above follows:)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Trenton, July 27, 1967.

Mr. WILLIAM WALSH,
River Vale, N.J.

DEAR MR. WALSH: Now that things have calmed down a little bit, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation, as well as