

STATEMENT OF DAVID CARON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, WALDBAUM'S, INC.; ACCOMPANIED BY ERNEST BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT; AND GEORGE BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT, WALDBAUM'S, INC., NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mr. CARON. I am David Caron. I am the executive vice president of Waldbaum's. With me is Ernest Brown, vice president of our company, and George Brown, also a vice president of our company. They have been with our company for the past 30 years. Ernest Brown is in charge of operations for our entire company, and George Brown, on my left, is in charge of the entire Brooklyn area.

With reference to this meeting, I want to explain to everyone concerned that we have been in operation for the past 64 years. Our one store in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area is our original store, and we are very proud of it. We have gone along with every committee in the area, with every service group in the area, with the city fathers who asked us to stay.

Not only did we stay in the area because we are very proud of our original store, but we enlarged the store and made it a complete supermarket, not yesterday or today but 10 years ago. We moved it across the street, and you have a complete supermarket in the area.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me compliment you on one thing. Looking at this chart based on Mrs. Aponte's survey, your prices went down—went from \$9.60 on November 14 in Bedford-Stuyvesant to \$9.58 on November 16. Every other store we had went up after the 15th.

Mr. CARON. I would like—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I assume that is an accident. [Laughter.]

Mr. CARON. Sometimes we say God takes care of everything and if He doesn't, it's an accident. I can only state one thing: all of our prices are the same in every store and at no time would we ever change prices for checks that come in on the 15th or the 1st or any other date.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The only reason we asked you to be here was that Mrs. Aponte's study did show a discrepancy between Bedford-Stuyvesant on November 14 of \$9.60 and in Flatbush of \$9.21, and on November 16 in Bedford-Stuyvesant it was \$9.58 and in Flatbush it was \$9.09.

Mr. CARON. I can only say I don't know the items. I knew nothing about it. I received a telegram just the other day. We are very happy to be here. I can only state that we don't change our prices. There is such a factor as human error. Whatever that may be, it could exist.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We must have order here, please. This is a congressional inquiry.

You have a book price for all your stores?

Mr. CARON. Yes, sir. We have a book price for all the stores. It comes off an IBM machine and is printed every 4 weeks so they have a continual running of prices, a continual updating of prices, and this book is continuously carried on through the 4-week period.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Do you check the Brooklyn stores yourself?

Mr. GEORGE BROWN. Personally.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. How often?

Mr. GEORGE BROWN. On a weekly basis.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Could you explain this report? This difference?

Mr. GEORGE BROWN. No. I am at a loss.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Have we shown the items—

Mrs. APONTE. We didn't bring physically the items, but we have the pictures here on this list.