

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Could we do this—apparently we wouldn't be able to do it this afternoon, and we frankly regret the limited time we gave you folks. We realize the pressure you were under. We didn't know when Congress would have a day off. We finally concluded we wouldn't have a day off, and that is why we made it today in New York and tomorrow in St. Louis, so there was not an opportunity for anyone to really properly respond to all the things that would be brought up.

We will do this: We will have Mrs. Aponte give us, give the committee staff, a list of all the items involved in this market basket. Would you check it against your records and let us know what your explanation is for the record of what the discrepancy is?

Mr. CARON. Absolutely.

Mr. ERNEST BROWN. I will say this, Mrs. Aponte or anybody else, if they find a difference in price, they can notify us immediately. Ask my manager and they will give the home phone number of our office and we will take action right away, because we only have one price and only sell at one price.

Mr. CARON. I doubt if there is any problem that any customer would ever have trying to get hold of our main office or speaking to our managers.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What is the telephone number to call for somebody who wants to complain?

Mr. CARON. They can ask the manager in the store. They can have the direct line right there, or call. That is our number at the office. When Dr. Costello spoke of these areas and would like to have local talent in our stores, I want to make certain the people understand that our stores, that particular store, has a Puerto Rican as the manager, and 80 percent of his staff is Negro, and I don't say that just because the two Brown gentlemen are here with me.

This has been our policy for 64 years. This is not as of today. We haven't changed any prices. We don't intend to change prices. There may have been a mistake. I will agree. Could be. Human error. Could happen. But—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Are the managers on any kind of bonus incentive arrangement?

Mr. CARON. Absolutely not.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Strict salary basis?

Mr. CARON. Yes. They all belong to the union. They are on a strict salary basis.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Is that common throughout the industry here in New York?

Mr. CARON. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What we found in our hearings in Washington, for example, was that Safeway store managers could earn a 60-percent bonus. They would get a salary and up to a 60-percent bonus based on the profit of the store. You have no such arrangement?

Mr. CARON. No, sir.

VOICE. That is the only chain nationally that has a bonus basis. Every supermarket in New York City, and we represent labor, we are from the Retail Clerks and the Amalgamated and local 338, you will find everybody is on a basic salary. No one working percentages. The only time there might be some pressures is on short stocks to our people, and then the problem comes in on the price changes.