

Mr. STERN. I know the purpose of this investigation, and we commend Congress and commend the consumers' groups, and we pledge our support in any effort to eradicate gouging, price variance, anything that will take advantage of consumers in this part of town or any other part of town.

Certainly, as workers in the stores and in many cases, we contend, underpaid, many of our members are part time and don't get an adequate amount of wages and they are harassed and overworked. Certainly we have an interest in supporting consumers in their effort to get the right prices, but I think it would be a disaster if we leave it simply on just this level of the price variances.

I think we do a disservice if we don't dig into this industry as you did in the National Food Commission, and I don't think you wasted time. I think you did a great service, because much of the facts are of value to this industry. We support all these efforts and we want to offer our cooperation of the unions in Greater New York with your—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Let me just ask you one question and I want to conclude. I heard what this gentleman said. It's been said many times before. Yet every man who appeared here today on behalf of the supermarkets, when I asked them if there were any special problems in the ghetto areas, they all said "No."

Mr. STERN. I think—I doubt whether you're getting the complete story. I think there is a great concern about discussing some of the sensitive areas, and I think that candor is called for, and I think you can't solve a—

Mr. ROSENTHAL. If the giants of the food industry won't be candid with us, how will we get to first base?

Mr. STERN. I can't speak for them.

VOICE. The gentleman from the food industry here this morning has no stores in Harlem. They can't speak for Harlem.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you very much. Do we have anyone else that wants to be heard?

VOICE. I would like to make a comment.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Identify yourself.

Mrs. HILL. Lorraine Hill. I'm with the African American Teacher's Association, as well as United Bronx Parents. The only result I can see of these smaller stores getting support to become supermarkets is that you have a lot of independent stores with no control, kind of gouging people. As Mr. Mandell said about the Key Food stores, where they are all independent and they all have their own franchise, and there isn't that much control that you can have. You hopefully want control, but you can't guarantee that you can get their price fix that you talked of and Mr. Stern's suggestion is going along the same line. And I certainly can't see that it will help a poor community.

Mr. MANDELL. What control are you referring to?

Mrs. HILL. The kind of control you might very well have with a store like Waldbaum's or with a store—that you might have with A. & P. But you certainly won't get it with the kind of thing Mr. Stern was talking about, or that you gave, because I certainly was not comfortable with the kinds of things that you said were going on in your stores.