

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The store?

Mrs. MASON. I'll give you that. But sometimes you tell these managers that these things—their attitude is very nasty. This is something else you have to come in contact with in these stores, is the attitude that the managers and people take when you speak to them, as if they are the end. There's no one else over them.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We have a few phone numbers of people you can call today. Let's try and put them to use.

Mrs. MASON. We had a girl come into our education program and told us she worked for one of the chains and was told by the manager to add on 69 cents to every big purchase. We are dealing with people in our particular area where they have from five to 10 in the family, so when this person goes to the store they won't buy just a few items they can really check and which the time they take their things out and put it on this register and this fellow's eyes just going like this, it's hard to even keep up with him and the prices.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I'm aware of that. What you are saying is that puts a special burden on the stores to make sure that the prices on the cans are up to the minute and correct.

Mrs. MASON. Because a person will buy three cans instead of one, so he's charged three times the higher price.

Mr. HAIL. My comment, of course, is that we kind of get confused, because we are as fighting two sources, management and union. Certainly the union representative had much more to say about our problems—the terrible things we do and that we don't pay attention and the fault is ours and just like in every other situation, here we are fighting management and union, and I wonder why.

Mr. SUMS. I'm Julius Sums. I represent the union. We have in this Harlem area most of the stores that are still here are members of our union. One store mentioned, the Morningside Co-op, is one of our shops. We have our men who have been working there. The facts are that we had to take members of ours that worked in this area and find jobs for them in different areas. Many of the stores here close and never reopen. There is much more to check, as my friend Stern says, president of our council in New York, than just the price structure alone.

The reason why do people run away from here and don't open any stores. The Food Family stores, our stores, had three markets. One burned. Then they remained with two. One is there willing to give up and close. There is much more reasons.

We took half of our membership out of this area right here and placed them in areas, Columbus Avenue, Broadway, in different areas to place them on jobs. It's a union organization of mixed elements, Negro and white. Our top officials, two of them are Negro. Some Puerto Ricans. We are intermixed, and our men work in union shops all over the city. Local 342, Brother Stern is our president. All the locals cooperate with each other and make jobs for people. Our people are consumers. They don't want to be cheated as much as you don't want to be cheated.

This is not a fact. Our locals, we represent a great majority.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you very much. Without objection, I would like to insert into the record at this point, a statement and a letter by the Honorable Percy E. Sutton, president, Borough of Manhattan, and a statement by the Fort Greene Community Corp.