

Our study included what has been described here as chainstores, Kroger, National, A. & P., smaller chainstores possibly, Bettendorf's, Schnucks, IGA, and independent markets and a discount foodstore.

Do you want any other information?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. No; just tell us what you found. How many ladies actually did the survey?

Mrs. SLAVIN. We had approximately 25 people who were willing to shop and we only recorded results on 20 stores, six of which were Kroger, four A. & P., three National, two Bettendorf's, two IGA, one Schnucks, one independent store.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The Kroger stores, were they in any special areas or neighborhoods?

Mrs. SLAVIN. Yes, we did have a distribution. We had a store that is noted by Kroger to be their discount store called Gem, we had a Clayton store, we had a store in the poverty area, at Jefferson and Stoddard; we had a Clayton store on Maryland, a store on Lindell, 4147 Lindell, which has been defined to be in the poverty area; and one in University City, Olive and Purdue.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Tell us what you found.

Mrs. SLAVIN. Specifically at Kroger stores?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Well, begin anywhere you want.

Mrs. SLAVIN. All right.

What we did was ask people to send in results of their shopping each week as it was completed.

In the second week of our survey, information was published in the Post-Dispatch of the surveys being conducted by Mrs. Joan Foster Dames of the Post-Dispatch and Mr. Baum and Mr. Nadler of the Human Development Corp. Therefore, we thought that possibly our efforts were being duplicated, considered the possibility of withdrawing, but proceeded with our original goal. We had first set out to comparison-shop items for store and brand names and after the first week we eliminated the store brands because we found that these were usually less expensive than brand names, corrected what errors we could see in our shopping list in terms of brand names, and asked the ladies to proceed. Then we recorded the second-week survey.

In the meantime, the mayor had announced that he was forming a committee to look into the problem of food pricing and that an independent survey would be conducted by the Better Business Bureau. At this point, we were really sure that we were not needed but we went on, and then received the tally of our third week's study.

We had actually considered that this community of concern would be reflected in the third week if not the second week in lower prices across our board. It didn't turn out this way. We saw actually no major change in our results, with the exception of a few stores in the poverty areas which showed a decline, and this decline indicated a decline to the level of pricing that had been consistent in other stores throughout the chain during our 3-week period.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Can you tell us in summary fashion what your findings were beginning on the first week, second, and third weeks?

Mrs. SLAVIN. Well, in terms of specific price data here, we have items which include produce and meat. We have processed and packaged items, flour, sugar, canned items and some frozen foods, and then some cleaning materials.