

Mrs. DAMES. I purchased; yes.

Mr. MYERS. Thank you.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I have no further questions. Thank you both.

The next witness is Rev. John Shocklee.

Father Shocklee, we are delighted to have you with us. We will be grateful hearing whatever comments you have on the testimony you have heard here and the experiences you have had in St. Louis and the work you have done.

STATEMENT OF REV. JOHN SHOCKLEE, PASTOR, ST. BRIDGET OF ERIN CHURCH

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Thank you, Congressman.

Later in the day you are going to hear from several ladies from our community who know a whole lot more about food and costs of food and quality of food than I do. However, I do have observations about the situation that having been a resident of the community for 7 years, and that community is—I live in the Pruitt-Igoe area that you have heard of several times today. When you know the community, and you may have heard these statistics before this morning, that we do have about 70 percent of our people are on aid of one kind or other, ADC or the blind or the old-aged assistance or general relief, and of those that are living in the Pruitt-Igoe housing development, 62 percent of our people live on less than \$3,000 a year. It is less than \$3,000 a year as family income. It doesn't make much sense, it doesn't mean much until you read that we are the third highest metropolitan area in the United States as far as food costs are concerned, and most of us know that we are the 42d State in the Union as far as the size of welfare benefits to the individuals are concerned, so there is a discrepancy there that makes it quite a problem.

My own experience in the neighborhood, and the complaints of the housekeeper that makes purchases for us, called it to my attention that it was costing us just a lot of money just to live there, and then the women from the community began reporting the difficulties that they were having of getting by on their limited budgets. I have heard many times about Kroger this morning. Kroger happens to be the only chain-store that we have in the neighborhood, and while I don't have stock in Kroger, A. & P., or anybody else, I don't know whether the situation would be helped if they left the neighborhood, so what my point would be is that something ought to be done to offer this competition and to offer this choice of some form of encouragement to other chains, other large groups to get concerned about this large number of people that do live in our community.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. In your immediate area, Father, there are no other chains other than Kroger?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Nothing in the immediate area, and the only other Kroger store is 4200 west on Lindell or 4200 north on Grand.

Mr. MYERS. How far would that be, Father?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Five miles, at least, each way.

Mr. MYERS. Are there other stores that are chains?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. There are other small stores, small markets, delicatessen, but again these are not owned by people who live in the neighborhood, they are owned by people out in suburban areas, but