

We have this large number of people, we admit that our income is not the highest in the world, and we know that business is in business to make money. I don't think it is impossible that money could not be made if the Federal Government was able to offer some kind of leadership in promoting the types of things that I recommended, of some kind of concessions or subsidies or grants to enable this large segment of American people to be fed properly at a price they could afford to pay.

The answer, of course, would be competition, which is what we need. Poor people don't have much choice at anything. You have to live in a certain area, you work at a certain job, you buy in a certain store and that's the limit of it, which might give us an indication of why violence and rebellion enter into the picture occasionally.

This is my opinion, I am not the professional that goes around with a basket and compares prices. My observations were at the end of the month when the housekeeper told us we owed them a lot of money and we began to look closer.

Mr. MYERS. Father Shocklee, I'm not real sure, you aren't charging, then, that the store in your area, the chainstore that happens to be Kroger, is charging more than they do in other areas of the city; is that correct?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. All that I can say is I have gone out to other areas in the suburbs to a store where the prices were much cheaper than we were paying across the street. Now, this was not another Kroger store, this was a different store where I happened to know the manager and he asked me to come out, which I did do, but this creates the problem, while the prices are much more reasonable generally at this particular chain, it is at a great distance and they have no stores in the city whatsoever, they are all suburban stores. They do reach out to the people living in the suburban community, and if the people of our community, and frequently I do meet people from our neighborhood who have a car who go as far away to make purchases.

Mr. MYERS. Are these general beliefs or did you look at specific items?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. I checked out in the area of fruit juices.

Mr. MYERS. Same size, same brand?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Del Monte brand, at sale at this store they were 22 cents a can, normal price about 27 cents a can, but frequently at our store 32 cents a can.

Mr. MYERS. Is there competition out in the suburbs where you went?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Yes, sir.

Mr. MYERS. You talk about subsidizing, we work up some subsidy for stores to come into your area. Why isn't there a store now, why isn't there some competition, can you give me a reason why?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. I presume—well, I am sure the stores could tell you more about it than I can, they are there to make money, they probably feel they aren't going to make money. I don't know anything about the books, the annual report of Kroger, but I know they would have complaints of vandalism and the usual charges which may or may not be true. But why the others aren't coming, I suppose they feel they aren't going to make any money at it.

Mr. MYERS. If these charges are true, my gosh, there is a lot of money to be made there then.