

Mr. MYERS. Physically, how far in miles is that?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. You have to go there to apply, 5 miles, then they have to go up on Grand Avenue to the food stamp office to get the stamps themselves.

Mr. MYERS. How far is that?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. About a mile.

Mr. MYERS. So they do pass possibly other stores on the way to get their food stamps and so forth, they do pass other competitive stores, those people that do have food stamps?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Right, except that there would be no Kroger.

Mr. MYERS. Others possibly?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. There aren't, though.

Mr. MYERS. In 5 miles there are no other chainstores?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. In thinking fast we don't have a chainstore between here and the food stamp office, from our area now. If you came from the south you might bump into different ones, but our particular community—I don't know of another one—I stand corrected on this, but I don't remember another one. I am talking about the large stores.

Mr. MYERS. You spoke about local ownership and managers. Your Kroger store, do they hire local people from your area to work?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Yes; they do.

Mr. MYERS. Don't any of them ever work up to become managers someplace else?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. I can't really tell you. There is a different policy in the stores. Some leave this up to the individual manager and sometimes he never seems to find anyone he wants to hire in that particular community, so that the hiring then might be done at the upper level of the administrative level rather than the local store, but I do know that they can get a good word from the manager in our neighborhood, because I have taken boys from our neighborhood out to the Kroger office, which is next to Lambert Field out on Lindbergh in my car so they could take some tests to be hired by the store in our neighborhood.

Mr. MYERS. Were they hired?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. One boy was and several others I think. I do know one that was particularly interested was hired.

Mr. MYERS. But they do hire people from your community?

Reverend SHOCKLEE. If you are strong enough to get all the way out to Lindbergh, if you can get 10 miles.

Mr. MYERS. If you want to be a stockboy you ought to be strong enough to get out there.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I want to take this opportunity to commend you, Father, not really for your testimony, but because someone in your profession is so deeply involved in matters of concern to members of our profession. It is a very healthy sign and I think it is an important sign for America these days. Thank you very much.

Reverend SHOCKLEE. Thank you.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. The next witness will be Mr. Walter W. White, manager of operations of the St. Louis division of the Kroger Co.

When we complete this testimony we will adjourn for lunch.