

Mr. ROSENTHALL. Now, does the produce manager, the meat manager also make bonuses?

Mr. WHITE. No; they do not.

Mr. ROSENTHALL. The only one in the store is the manager himself?

Mr. WHITE. That is correct.

Mr. ROSENTHALL. Thank you very much.

The committee will adjourn for lunch.

(Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., the hearing was recessed, to reconvene at 2:30 p.m., the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. ROSENTHALL. The subcommittee will be in session.

Our next witness is Mr. Robert A. O'Neal of National Food Stores.

Mr. O'Neal, if you are accompanied by counsel, we would be delighted to have him sit with you at the table.

Mr. TREIMAN. It isn't necessary.

Mr. O'NEAL. By his choosing, he chooses to sit back there.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. O'NEAL, ST. LOUIS DIVISION MANAGER, NATIONAL FOOD STORES

Mr. O'NEAL. Mr. Chairman, I have a prepared statement.

I would like to say first that I am 45 years old, I started working at a grocery store when I was 14 years old as a clerk. I was a clerk for several years and I managed a store for several years, I was a district manager. I worked in sales and merchandising, produce operations, meat. I was a meatcutter at one time, and some times I pinched myself and wondered how I got to whatever degree of success you might call it, but, at any rate, I am here today.

I might say that the statement is pretty much in my own words. Our general office is located in Chicago, Ill. They have no copy of this statement; they don't even know what I am going to say. It has not been read to anyone other than to my legal counsel, who made a few changes in it—in wording, not meaning.

My name is Robert O'Neal, and I am the manager of the National Food Stores in the St. Louis division.

I want to say, first of all, that my company was happy to accept your invitation to appear at this hearing. And one of the reasons was that it would give us an opportunity to tell not only your committee but also the people of our community the facts, at least so far as my company is concerned, regarding the subject matter of your investigation. Because this is a public hearing and everything is being taken down by an official reporter, I think I can safely assume, and you can safely assume, that what I am about to tell you will be nothing but the simple truth.

Let me begin by assuring you that my company has long been aware of the problems that confront the consumer in the low-income areas. We can't help being aware of them because we have stores in these areas, and we couldn't operate these stores without giving a lot of study, and a lot of attention, and a lot of sympathetic understanding to these problems. Incidentally, I would like to add that we have been fortunate in being able to have the cooperation of the Human Development Corp. We have worked with the Human Development Corp., at