

Mr. MYERS. I agree, Mr. O'Neal, I don't do a whole lot of shopping, but when I do I look for price, and I have experienced also some of the irregularities on the same shelf items marked differently.

Mr. O'NEAL. Absolutely. I have made stores and I have found the same items in our shelves with two different prices on it or prices I can't even read.

Mr. MYERS. If I see apples for 15 cents that have a few brown spots and others for 20 cents, I will take the 15-centers. I am looking for the bargain, so if you mark down I will be looking in your store.

The evidence here, that the chairman introduced here, that, I guess, was Mrs. Dames, is quite contrary to what HDC found for your stores. I find it confusing. I notice here that the variance in what HDC's report, and I assume you have read this report, was only 35 cents between your extremes in your stores, is that right? That isn't a very big variance.

Mr. O'NEAL. That is the only one I have. I don't have Mrs. Dames' report.

Mr. MYERS. I also notice in the hot dogs, the prices were exactly the same, 59 and 69. Why would you have the difference there between 59 and 69 on hot dogs?

Mr. O'NEAL. Well, there is one point that—there are two or three things that I would like to bring up. The Human Development Corp. is a fine group of people. I think their intentions were well-meaning. There are some disparities in pricing in here. I believe, if my memory serves me right, and this is not uncommon, I believe that Mr. White from Kroger made the statement, and I can't remember which meat-packer it was, but one of these meatpackers chose to make available to all—which makes it legal—of the companies a reduced cost price on their frankfurters.

Mr. MYERS. That is what he said, yes.

Mr. O'NEAL. Yes, and I think the same situation—

Mr. MYERS. You didn't check out the variance in prices?

Mr. O'NEAL. No. Now we are going back a month ago, and to call up a meat man—by the way, I didn't get this until this past Tuesday morning.

Mr. MYERS. That was sooner than I received mine.

Mr. O'NEAL. You don't have to answer the questions, though.

But I think that is where the disparity is there, anyway, but I believe, and I could be wrong, maybe we are just as guilty as can be, I don't know, but I think the disparity here is that they possibly might have checked one brand in one store and the other in the other store.

Mr. MYERS. It could be brands, then? You spoke—

Mr. O'NEAL. And I might point out if there is an inference here that we are doing this to poverty stores, of all the stores listed here, store No. 4 at McKnight and Delmare, this is a pretty dog gone nice area, the people of St. Louis that know their way around, this is a long, long ways from being a low-income area.

Mr. MYERS. You have gone out of your way a number of times here to compliment the Human Development Corp. You also say that they have helped you in getting new employees. Now, do you make it a point to hire employees within the area that your store serves?

Mr. O'NEAL. Yes, sir, we try to. Now, it is hard to do that a hundred