

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Any of the charges that HDC made against A-G, did you check them out?

Mr. CONREAU. No, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. As far as you are concerned, if they are true, and if you become aware of it, you intend to discipline the store?

Mr. CONREAU. I would say that we will continue to discipline as we do now, and if we can find some better way of disciplining and stay within the law, we would try to do so, yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Very frankly, I think you ought to be commended for it.

Mr. Myers?

Mr. MYERS. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Is there anything else you want to say?

Mr. CONREAU. No.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Are Mrs. Etta McGowan and Mrs. Jackson here?

While they are getting ready why don't we get Mr. Shampaine, is he here?

Why don't you ladies sit over here and let's get Mr. Shampaine up.

STATEMENT OF H. ROBERT SHAMPAINE, CHAIRMAN OF MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CONSUMER VALUES

Mr. SHAMPAINE. My name is H. Robert Shampaine. I am the chairman of a special committee appointed by Mayor A. J. Cervantes of the city of St. Louis to delve into this question of food prices and variation in quality as it may effect the people of St. Louis. This group will be officially known as the Mayor's Committee for Development of Consumer Values. It is an outgrowth of earlier reports in the press and a meeting called by Mr. Cervantes with top people from the local war on poverty agency, Urban League, Labor Council, Department of Welfare, and Council on Human Relations. The latter two are official agencies of the city government. I met with the mayor on the day following this meeting and agreed to become chairman of his ad hoc committee. Members of the committee are still being selected and I am not able now to offer all of their names, but they will include representatives of food distribution organizations, retail unions, a practicing home economist, a member of the State legislature, a neighborhood community leader, and the business community.

Mr. Edgar Sargent, president of local 655, Retail Store Employees Union; Mr. Sydney Jacobs, assistant to the dean, Washington University School of Social Work; and Representative DeVerne Calloway have accepted membership on my committee.

There will be no dearth of facts, figures, and recommendations flowing from the groups that you have already heard from. We will endeavor to become the catalyst for the information and recommendations and hopefully put action behind the findings. Our committee will, in the meantime, concern itself with learning why food prices in St. Louis are generally high enough to place us No. 3 among the 12 major U.S. cities.

Parenthetically, I might say I have learned unofficially that we have earned the dubious distinction of having gone up to No. 2 for the month of October.