

Mr. ROSENTHAL. We will hold the record open at this point, Dr. Mehren, you will be able to supply us with copies of those records? (The following information was supplied:)

Production of frozen dinners under this DSA contract covered the period of December 6, 1966, to October 31, 1967. No USDA inspection records are now available covering this merchandise.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I also want to correct the record. There were 18,563 of these dinners that were rejected and they still have 14,000. It's our understanding that—

Dr. MEHREN. No, they have 18,293, they advise us.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I have a letter from the company, signed by the director of quality control—which I would be happy to put into the record at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)

MORTON FROZEN FOODS DIVISION,
CONTINENTAL BAKING CO., INC.,
Crozet, Va., November 7, 1967.

HON. BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL,
Chairman, Special Inquiry on Consumer Representation in the Federal Govern-
ment, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Following is the information you requested in your letter of October 25, 1967, concerning the 18,563 meals, precooked frozen, offered by Continental Baking Co., Morton Frozen Foods Division under contract No. DSA 130-7-C-30570, October 21, 1966, rejected because of a failure to meet Government requirements:

(1) The product is being sold through the Company Thrift Store outlet as individual units. No record is being kept of the purchasing parties nor of the quantities purchased by each nor of the dates of sale. There was no further processing prior to sale. The Company Thrift Stores are used as outlets for finished products which we feel are unconditionally satisfactory for consumption but because of damage or other conditions might not withstand the rigors of introduction into retail channels of distribution.

(2) The frozen meals when offered for Federal use were packed in cartons which make reference to the U.S. Government by virtue of having a USDA establishment inspection legend imprinted on both the carton and the parchment information sheet inserted into the carton. These cartons are packed for shipment in cases bearing the contract number as well as the USDA establishment inspection legend.

(3) The frozen meals when offered for sale after rejection, were removed from the shipping cases and left in the protective carton described above. Samples of the cartons and inserts are included with this letter.

(4) At the present time, we have approximately 14,000 of these dinners in our possession.

I trust the foregoing information adequately satisfies your request. Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further help.

Sincerely yours,

RAY B. DONOHUE,
Director of Quality Control.

Dr. MEHREN. That is at variance with the information they gave us last night.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I have no special insight. The copy of this letter says that 18,563 dinners were rejected and they still have 14,000, so I assume they disposed of, and they acknowledged disposing of, 4,563 or thereabouts. Not 263.

Dr. MEHREN. Perhaps we'd better check, because this is a rather gross variance from the information telephoned to me.

Mr. WYDLER. They did sell some of these to the general public, didn't they?