

ment program paralleled by large inspection and grading programs. Therefore, as a matter of administrative procedure, of efficiency in the use of our people we specify not merely the raw material and the end product but all details of processing intermediate between those points and any deviation is a breach of the contract terms.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I think you are saying for your own people, to protect yourself, you don't want to take any chances of inspectors' fallibility.

Dr. MEHREN. We want to get our stuff as cheaply as we can.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. But in the commercial market we have to rely on those inspectors.

I understand your point. Because you have such a big operation, you want precise procedures to reduce the room for human error and you don't want any discussions or arguments of any kind with anybody.

What you are permitting in the commercial market are all those discussions and negotiations with an inspector, a different standard from what you want for yourself.

Dr. MEHREN. Different procedure, not standard. If it is not safe, we will knock it over for commercial use.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. You are willing to permit the inspector, whether at Morton's or Buffalo or Iowa, to make that individual judgment?

Dr. MEHREN. How else would you do it?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. For the commercial consumer. For your own, you are not willing to?

Dr. MEHREN. For our own, like any other procurement agency I know about, we specify process as well as product attributes. There is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. WYDLER. Mr. Secretary, would you have allowed the shipping company of the turkeys to have taken the turkeys when you found they were somewhere above the 15° level and have refrozen them down to zero so you could have distributed them to any school at all with great safety?

Dr. MEHREN. I don't know what the rules are there, frankly.

Mr. WYDLER. In other words, as I understand your rationale, for the low-level items just because it might have to go to some school that doesn't have good freezing equipment so the important thing, then, would be that it was at 0° when it left the point of shipment at Jersey City.

So if the company took the turkeys and put them down to zero right there at the shipment point, would you have taken them to let them be used in schools?

Dr. MEHREN. I don't know if that is compatible with the procurement terms or not.

Mr. GRANGE. No, sir.

Dr. MEHREN. Mr. Grange says the answer is "No."

Mr. WYDLER. Then beyond the reason you gave for requiring them to be 15° or less—you said it was because some of the places they were going to go might not have the equipment to keep them at low temperature—if they were at the low temperature when leaving Jersey City, it would seem you would accomplish everything your objection raises.

Dr. MEHREN. Except to open up a variety of operating difficulties, arguments, necessities for resolutions which we avoid by putting into the contract, as I said before, requirements for processes, not merely