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Store points to human error

# Feds claim Safeway cheats

Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission on Monday accused Safeway Stores, the nation's largest supermarket chain, of overpricing and overcharging on advertised sale items. The FTC has made similar accusations in the past against the country's second and third largest chains.

The latest complaint alleged that a "significant number" of Safeway stores overcharged customers by failing to mark down advertised

specials, and selling those items at the regular price.

Safeway said that the overcharges were simply a matter of "human error."

Safeway said in a statement: "The FTC complaint is based on a survey in 56 Safeway stores in which less than 150 out of 10,000 advertised items were purchased above the advertised price. Because human error cannot be completely eliminated in the complex and demanding job of checking out grocery pro-

ducts, some items will be undercharged and overcharged."

Safeway said that various industry studies have shown that cashier errors usually result in a net savings for the customer.

The FTC's proposed order would require that all advertised products be marked at sale prices and sold at or below the advertised price.

That would not apply, however, when the price of an advertised item is determined by the total value of a

customer's order or the use of coupons.

In addition, the order would require Safeway Stores, based in Oakland, Calif., to post at public entrances and checkout counters copies of their advertisements and a statement of policy urging customers to report to the store manager any time that the checker has rung up a higher price.

Advertised items would not have to be price-marked if the store is

equipped with optical scanners which read coded price information on packages, the FTC said.

Safeway operates 1,950 retail food stores in 27 states and the District of Columbia, and is the largest chain in terms of sales, which in 1973 totaled almost \$6.8 billion.

Safeway officials were ordered to appear at the FTC headquarters on Oct. 21 to answer the complaint. Safeway contests it, the case will go before an administrative law judge.

## Teacher complaints still airing

Associated Press  
Negotiators in the New York school board strike hope agreement can be reached Monday night and the city's 1.1 million students can be back in class Wednesday. Teachers' strikes affecting some one million other students continued in Chicago and cities in six other states.

As talks resumed in Chicago, the teachers' union said it may set up alternative schools and the school board threatened to seek an injunction blocking the strike. And in Wilmington, Del., police held off arresting teachers under a contempt-of-court order in hopes of forcing renewed bargaining.

A strike in Clover Park, Wash., near Tacoma, was also becoming in-

creasingly mired in the courts. The school board said it would appeal a judge's refusal to grant a strike injunction unless the board resigned. He said the board had not bargained in good faith.

Some 15,000 students are out of school in the Clover Park strike.

Meanwhile, classes resumed or settlements were reached Monday in teachers' strikes in Lynn and New Bedford, Mass.; San Jose, Calif.; and Cumberland and North Providence, R.I. Strikes continued in other districts in Rhode Island, California and Pennsylvania, as well as in cities in New York State and New Jersey.

In New York City, where the negotiations have been rooted in the worst fiscal crisis since the Depression, key terms of the agreement reportedly focused on keeping class sizes the same as they were last school year, a major demand of the 65,000 striking teachers.

These included a cut in school hours, reduction in teacher preparation time and possible rehiring of laid-off teachers with some \$25 million in salaries saved during the strike and fines paid by teachers for striking.

The New York negotiations were to resume Monday evening after a recess called for the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, and the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) scheduled a vote by its union delegates later in the evening. The delegates' approval could allow completion of a ratification by Tuesday and students' return to classes Wednesday.

Union and school board officials both said after the recess began Sunday that they expected an agreement before Tuesday.

"We are near a conclusion," said UFT president Albert Shanker.

The strike began last Tuesday, virtually shutting down the city's 950 public schools. Major issues have been school board efforts toward economies rather than salaries, which were \$9,700 to \$20,350 under the old contract.

A return to classes would still leave in question the situation of the UFT and Shanker in regard to the state's Taylor law against public employe strikes.

Under the law, the teachers could be fined two days of pay for every day on strike and Shanker could be

jailed. He served jail sentences twice in the past for leading strikes, but each time after the strikes had ended.

In Chicago, a school spokesman again asked teachers to return to work while negotiations continue. Otherwise, he said, the alternative would be "recommendation of an injunction" to halt the strike.

## Schieffer for Bentson

(Continued from Page 1)

held in May along with the state primary. Seventy-five per cent of the Texas delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be elected by voters through senatorial districts. The remaining 25 per cent will be chosen at the state convention.

"This was a compromise of sorts," he said, "to keep alive an interest in the party structure."

Schieffer said the primary will increase the chances of selecting a nominee who can win the general election. The present system, he said, makes it easier for a "one-issue" candidate to gain the nomination.

"One issue," he said, "will not win an election."

The primary is expected to give Bentson an advantage in gaining Texas votes at the national convention because it is designed to aid a moderate candidate.

"But if he can't convince the voters he is the best man for the presidency, the primary won't help him," Schieffer said.

Schieffer said he contacted Bentson about the bill after he introduced it, because he "knew it wouldn't pass without his support."

He said Bentson not only supported the bill but worked closely with him on it.

An amendment placed on Schieffer's bill by the Senate causes it to expire in 1977. Schieffer said he opposed the amendment.

"I think it was a great mistake," he said. "I plan to introduce a bill to renew the primary, but it was very difficult to pass once. The Legislature might not want to go through that again."

drive  
merch

## Presnal appointed to council

State Representative Bill Presnal of Bryan has been appointed to serve on a committee of the Southern Legislature Conference of the Council of State Governments.

House Speaker Bill Clayton appointed Presnal to the Fiscal Affairs and Government Operations Committee of the conference.

The conference, made up of 15 southern states, will consider problems common to the South.

Clayton said Presnal's service would be an asset to the committee.

## Schools petition

Associated Press  
DALLAS — The Highland Park school district Monday filed a petition in federal court asking to be dismissed from the Dallas school desegregation suit.

Highland Park was the last of seven suburban school districts to respond to a request that U.S. District Court Judge William M. Taylor include it in a multi-district desegregation plan.

Testimony on the proposal was scheduled to begin Tuesday in Taylor's court.


In the petition, Highland Park's lawyers claimed the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled such an interdistrict plan was not appropriate in the Dallas case.

The district claims that if the court allows the establishment of an interdistrict plan, it would make it impossible for Taylor's court to comply with the stringent timetable established by the 5th Circuit Court.

The plaintiffs brought six other suburban school districts into the suit. Included are Irving, DeSoto, Duncanville, Wilmer-Hutchins, Carrollton-Farmers Branch and Lancaster.

At present, Taylor has two desegregation plans before him, one from the Dallas school board and another from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The appeals court rejected most of Taylor's 1971 desegregation plan and he was ordered to draw up a new plan and report back by Oct. 15.

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