

To: Mr. Chaim Shaulsohn, Shlita,
The Editor, "Panim Chadashot"

Regarding: Praise for your article of 21 Shevat on
The Kosher Food Price Watch, Inc (Shlita)
of whom Mr. Yehuda Melamed is the Executive Director.

MAZEL TOV !! MAZEL TOV !! MAZEL TOV !!

May heaven bless the hands and lives of those who inaugurated and compiled these articles as provided for in the second editions of Panim Chadashot, newly published by the renowned Chaim Shaulsohn Shlita. May long and healthy years of goodness and blessing be your lot. Rays of happiness beyond measure permeated my whole being to learn that, finally, at long last, has the time arrived that an organization of highly qualified learned men of whom you, Mr. Yehuda Melamed are the Executive Director who assumed the great role of correcting the heavenly-wailing atrocities compounded daily in mountainous measures due to the astronomical prices demanded by butchers on a item of sustenance to fulfill the bodily needs of Jewish people such as meat and poultry.

Who knows how many Jewish people deviated from the strict path of their parents and bought meat in the supermarket, Heaven forbid. The thoughts, I must admit, are most horrible to entertain, but dreadful facts revealing this certainty is unfortunately visible to behold. For those who doubt the authenticity of this statement, let them stroll through any Waldbaum's, Key-Food or A & P Supermarket, they'll be sorely oppressed to discover who patronizes their meat department.

I really thought I was amongst a minority for whom the purchase of meat was out of reach on account of the sky-high prices in relation to goyishe meat products. Being dependent on a monthly Social Security check for my income prohibits me financially from buying meat at these outrageous prices. For many many years I could not partake of meat due to the out-of-reach prices that butchers demand; not only I but my wife and married children too. Many many times it has been the cause of disruption in my family life, just and only because I couldn't afford those sky-high prices to buy meat. So instead I substituted fish and dairy products. When you can't - you just can't.

Why did this need take place ? Didn't Rabbis know of the law viz that one in the food line (especially in meat and poultry) are not allowed, according to our Jewish Law, charge more than 17% profit ? If they did know (as they are duty bound to) then wherefore is their reliability and trustworthiness ? That being the case - may I ask what is worth their HASHGOCHEH ? which makes the meat suspect altogether !

Therefore, Mr. Melamed, I deem your Zechus (merit) tremendously great, and due to your intercession in confronting those who have a monopoly on their Kosher Products will by your self-sacrificing efforts create cause to combat what existed heretofore whereby many many Jews who have nebach, nebach, nebach left the fold in order to exist have abandoned kashrus and went off the Jewish path as it says in the holy Rambam those who eat traifos go off the Jewish way.

For you, Mr. Melamed and your family may Heaven bless you with all blessings from our holy Torah that Hashem blessed Avrohom Oveenu. Jubilant is your share on both this and the eternal world.

All in the merit that you will give cause to erect and strengthen the commandment as per Shulchan Oruch, our holy Jewish laws prohibiting us from commanding higher prices other than the ones permitted us. May Hashem bless you and all yours with all blessings for all time Eternal.

May we all have the merit to be worthy to behold the rebuilding of the Baie Hamikdash in the very very near future.

Respectfully Yours,

Moshe C. Barron
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Brooklyn, N.Y.

P.S.: Mr. Melamed, I am surprised at one point of major proportion the one in which depicts the prices of overcharge not being graduated for easy accessibility to the layman to lodge upon his mind with vivid conception.

At the time I read your article a thought of great importance entered my mind. It is as follows: If as you state the overcharge for Kosher over non-Kosher is the astronomical figure of \$300,000,000 (THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS AND ----- 000/100 CENTS). For ease of understanding I spoke it over with several people and have learned as follows:

Since a housewife shops from 9:00 A.M. to about 3:00 P.M. - equals to 6 hours a day; since she shops for food only five days a week which total

to be 30 hours per week. I multiplied the number of 30 weekly hours by 50 (round figures) weeks in the year that comes out to be 1500 hours of shopping per year. I divide the figure of \$300,000,000 into 1500 hours the answer is \$200,000.00 an hour that we are commanded to overpay just so that we are led to believe that we eat Kosher. Can you imagine, Mr. Melamed, that President Reagan, the big boss of U.S.A. only makes in one whole year what we overpay in only 1 1/2 hours which equals to \$300,000 - his salary ?

M.C.B.