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THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Food Prices Up

An interesting sidelight on the continuing food price "controversy" is the fact that non-food "needs" have risen so rapidly in the past 35 years.

Unfortunately, during this period many of us have been spoiled by cheap food prices. The percentage of our take home pay that we spend for food has continued to drop to the present level of less than 17 per cent, the lowest in the world. So, we now have a larger percentage of our incomes to spend for things besides food.

However, the "needs" of today are considerably different from what they were 35 years ago. Now they include such things as two or more cars, more vacations, more appliances, and things that were once considered luxuries or, perhaps, didn't even exist some years ago. Ironically, it was the availability of cheap food that permitted nonfarm families to grow accustomed to such a lofty standard of "needs."

Consumers protest food prices not because they are historically high in relation to other expenses which make up the total cost of living. They protect because they have become accustomed to spending their income for other things which they now regard as necessities.

In short, unrealistically low food prices had been around for so many years that many consumers had come to regard them as normal. Perhaps what we are experiencing is not the "high cost of living" but the "cost of living high."

Another thing to consider is that it's a lot easier to notice higher food prices. We go to the supermarket one, two or three times a week. We know when prices rise. We don't buy anything else quite as often, so it's a lot harder to notice other price increases.

Lennon Files

For Judge's Post

Continued From Page 11-A University of North Carolina, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the North Carolina Department of Labor.

During his tenure with the Department of Justice, he has represented the State in numerous criminal cases on



Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. Mr. Lennon is active in the

Mr. Lemon is active in the North Carolina Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He serves on the Board of Directors of the North Raleigh Exchange Club and the National Association of Historic Preservation Attorneys. Currently, he is writing a book on Appellate Practice and Procedure.

Guarding Against Hypothermia

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Continued From Page 11-A help. The County Department of Social Services as well as some community organizations have emergency funds for fuel. In some areas, churches and private organizations are raising money to buy fuel and top priority for these monies are the elderly and families with small children.

Carolina Power and Light as well as Public Service Gas Companies will work out a payment system for the elderly if they receive a disconnection notice. Keep in mind - there are people out there who care.

It isn't necessary for senior citizens to turn down the thermostat and freeze to death.

