

As Seen in The Mirror's SPORTS REFLECTIONS

of Athletes
and Events

The argument that today's pitchers are better than the ones faced by Babe Ruth can't be supported with facts and figures.

The year that the Sultan of Swat clouted 60 home runs, the season of 1927, the total number of round trippers by all American League players was only 439. Which means that approximately one out of every seven homers came off the Bambino's booming bat.

The season that Roger Maris hit 61 homers, there were 1,534 round trippers in the American League. Which means, of course that Maris accounted for only one out of 25 homers that year.

After 154 games in 1961, (the number in a season when the Babe played) Maris had 58 homers. In the eight additional game he hit three more. Roger came to bat 50 more times in 1961 than Ruth did in 1927.

No one will ever know how many homers the Sultan of Swat would have added to his 60 with 50 more times at bat. That's why Maris, who proved to be a flash in the pan, didn't truthfully surpass Ruth's record.

As for Hank Aaron, whose greatness no one can deny, at the start of 1973 he had already come to bat 10,896 times, compared with the 8,399 times at bat that comprised the Babe's entire career. And Hank had only 673 round trippers despite those extra 2,497 times at bat.

A little figuring will show that in clouting his 714 homers, Ruth averaged one in every 11.7 trips to the plate, while in hitting his 673 round trippers through 1972, Aaron averaged one every 16.2 trips to the plate.

Far be it from us to take anything away from Hank Aaron, who will certainly deserve his place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. However, being not only a great star but a man of fairness, he realizes that in the national pastime, George Herman Ruth

stands alone and always will.

No other ball player loved children more, and he never brushed off a kid seeking an autograph. Once when he had been put out of action by a wild pitch, he painfully scrawled his name with a bandaged hand for 25 youngsters who visited him at the home of a friend. It was typical of him.

COLEMAN

FORD

"WHERE SERVICE
COMES FIRST"

Highway 17 South
Phone 638-4011
Dealer No. 701A

WHOLESALE LIGHTING

Everything in Lighting and Electrical Service

418 BROAD STREET
NEW BERN
PHONE 638-1949

Should Food Be Cheap?

Prepared by Extension
Economists, Department of
Economics, NCSU, Raleigh

With all of the talk about high food prices, it may seem foolish to ask if food should be cheap. The answer is not as obvious as it may seem. It depends on what we mean by cheap. If by the word cheap, we mean that food should be produced and marketed as efficiently as possible and sold at the lowest price that will yield a reasonable profit for producers and marketing firms, then food should be cheap. But, using this criteria, everything else would also be cheap. If, on the other hand, by the word cheap we mean that everyone in the food industry should operate at a loss so that everyone else can afford to buy T-bone steaks and polished apples then why should food be that cheap?

Food is essential to life, but so is clothing and shelter in most areas of the world. In a modern society such as ours, one might

argue that transportation is also essential. But who protests clothing prices? Style changes in clothes make costly wardrobes outdated long before they are worn out. And certainly not everyone can afford tailor-made suits and original design gowns. Who cares? People simply don't need stylish clothes, tailored suits, and original designs to stay warm. Let the poor people buy the imported synthetics at the discount stores. The same seems to hold for housing. Certainly not everyone can afford a twenty-room mansion on the hill surrounded by ten acres of landscaped scenery. But society is not concerned about this problem. As long as the poor people can afford a small mobile home or three-room apartment, their housing needs are met. Who cares if the price of a \$100,000 home goes to \$150,000? And what about the price of automobiles? The manufacturers often quote modest prices on their standard models, but luxury cars are only for the rich. And even if a person can't afford a car, there is always public transportation. Society reasons that not everyone should be able to afford a Mercedes Benz.

But when it comes to food, values are different. If the price of steak goes up, there is a cry that poor people are going to

starve. Everyone is entitled to eat steaks and chops, or at least everyone is entitled to eat red meat. If everyone can't afford steak, it is a "national sin" perpetrated by farmers and middlemen. And even the people who live in mansions, wear original designed clothes and drive a Mercedes Benz are up in arms when the price of a steak increases 20 cents a pound.

Maybe everyone should be able to eat steak. But if they should, shouldn't they also have fine clothes, luxurious houses and expensive cars? It is not the value system that is questionable, it is the inconsistency of values that is questionable.

It may well be agriculture that is at least partially responsible for the situation. For years, agricultural organizations and agencies have been telling consumers that food is cheap. If consumers have now been convinced that food should be cheap, it is certainly not surprising that consumers rise in anger with rising price of food.

Boss giving work to employee:
"No hurry on this Ed... take all weekend if necessary."

**VITA-VAR
PAINTS**

**MITCHELL'S
HARDWARE**

220 Craven Street
ME 7-3100

Final Summer Clearance

OUR ENTIRE SUMMER STOCK NOW

REDUCED TO 1/2 PRICE

1/2

PRICE

Coats
Dresses
Swimwear
Sun Wear

Shoes
Bags
Accessories
Sportswear

GROUP OF
FOLDING SLIPPERS
1/2 PRICE

GROUP OF
CANVAS FOOTWEAR
1/2 PRICE

**OUR FALL & WINTER
MERCHANDISE
IS ARRIVING DAILY**

The Fashion Center
Your Center For Finer Feminine Fashions
**219 MIDDLE ST.
DOWNTOWN NEW BERN**

For Food
Famous from
Maine to Florida
The Answer Is—

**WILLIAMS
RESTAURANT**

Middle at Broad

**J. W. SMITH
AGENCY, INC.**

- Automobile
- Fire
- Home Owners
- Workmen's Compensation
- Life
- Hospitalization

2003 Neuse Blvd.

Over Carolina Power
& Light Company
ME 7-5500 - ME 7-6954