

The National Outlook Cost of Living Topping Out

By RALPH ROBEY

Prices of consumer goods are topping out. The index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for May showed an increase of only one tenth of one percentage point or from 123.5 to 123.6. If that's not the actual high of this move, it should be close to it.

This has been a long move. The last month that the index revealed a decline was in August 1956, and in only two months since has the index held steady with a preceding month. These were in October and December of 1957.

The persistence of the rise has been disturbing. It is widely believed prices should decline during a recession. The record shows, however, that this is more likely in wholesale prices than consumer prices, and that consumer prices almost always have a strong tendency to lag behind business trends.

There have been three principal factors behind the recent rise. First was the introduction of most 1958 new automobile models in one month. This meant that suddenly all discount prices were eliminated, a situation usually spread over at least two months. Second, this spring has been ex-

traordinarily bad from the point of fruits and vegetables, resulting in a sharp hike in prices for these commodities.

Third, there has been an almost continuous increase in the cost of services. This has been the trend for many months, and probably will persist for some time into the future. These include such costs as medical care and other so-called personal services.

The index uses 1947-49 as equal to 100. In other words, an index of 123.6 simply means consumer prices are 23.6 per cent above 1947-49. The increase of the past twelve months has been 3.3 per cent. Of course this index does not measure, nor attempt to measure, the cost of living of the public at large. It is designed to indicate the costs of an urban worker of moderate income.

In spite of the persistence of the upward trend there are good reasons for believing that we are either at or very close to the peak.

Food prices, which are the most important single category in the index, showed no change in the month ending the middle of May—the period to which the above figure refers. Further, in view of the recent sharp increases in food supplies, it is expected that prices will go no higher and actually are almost certain to show a moderate decline in coming months. Even meat is expected to ease off in price before too long as a result of increased marketings.

Apparel prices have shown a slight weakness for some time and there is no basis for anticipating a material change in this trend.

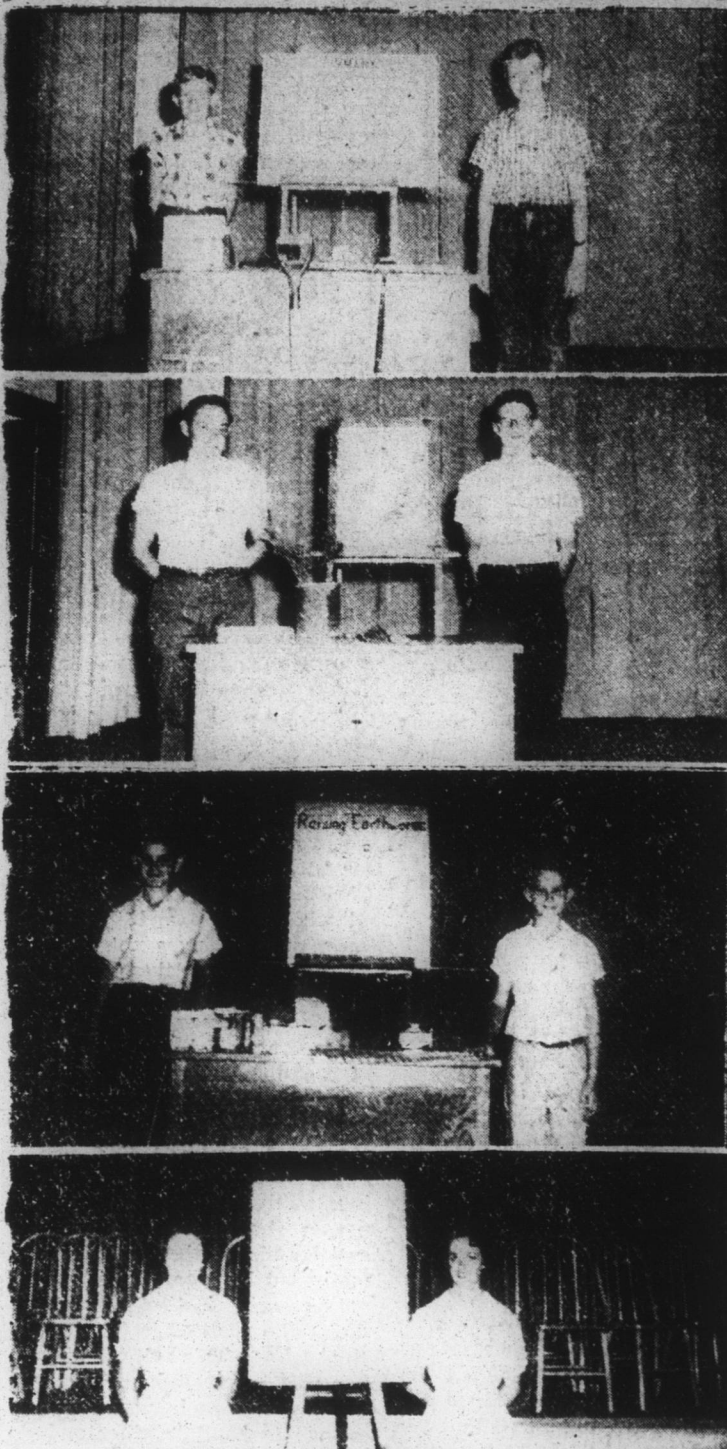
Housing charges, which include furnishing, have been showing a slight upward movement for many months, and this probably will be continued. The same is true of service charges. Private medical plans, such as the Blue Cross have found it necessary to increase their charges, and doctor's fees tend to ease up.

The transportation segment probably will show a further rise. The price of used cars recently advanced. Gasoline wars are less likely with that industry getting in better condition, and with the introduction of 1959 automobile models the current discount on 1958 models will be eliminated in the index.

The aggregate effect of these changes will depend partly upon the extent of the price movements and partly upon the weights assigned to the various categories. This means, in actuality, that decline in food prices must be sufficient to offset rises elsewhere.

There is ample basis for hoping that this will prove to be true. However, one is not justified in being completely dogmatic

Chowan 4-H Club Winners



Above is pictured a group of Chowan County 4-H Club members, all of whom won second place in various 4-H demonstrations at 4-H Elimination Day held recently at Washington, N. C. Top picture, Roy Nixon and Billy Bunch, who won second place in the district for their soil and water conservation demonstration. Second picture, Joe Nixon and Leon Evans, second place winners in the 4-H forestry demonstration. Third picture, Scott Ober and Gene Harrell, second place winners in wildlife conservation. Bottom picture, Kay Lowe and Georgia Skinner, second place in the 4-H entomology demonstration.

about it because wages still are rising, and in most instances this results in production-costs increase. Under these circumstances, unless there is a decrease in the cost of materials, it is difficult to get a decline of prices. This is especially the case now because in many companies profits have been reduced to the point where lower prices mean red ink in the profit column.

None the less, it is possible to say that we are on the verge of consumer price stability, and there is at least a chance that before the year-end we may see a slight decline.

With Farm Women

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ty some years ago. One club has adopted Bolivia for special study, and adopted a Bolivian homemaker who moved to the community. It's often hard to separate life's necessities from the extras, since many times the extras fill a very basic need. Home Agent Lillie B. Little, PITT County, explains that this is true of arts and crafts in Home Demonstration clubs. Mrs. Albert Bell, county arts and crafts leader, is doing a good job of supplying ideas and assuming leadership for workshops, so that club women can learn crafts for hobbies or money-making home projects. Have you ever heard of this? Anna Lee P. Howey, UNION assistant home agent, tells of an experience by the John Murray family, Monroe, Rt. 5, who raise Angus cows. It seems that a few weeks ago one Angus died. According to the veterinarian, the meat was good, so they skinned, cooked and canned it in beef mush form for food for their two beautiful German police dogs—who can't wait until mealtime. Mrs. Murray says "Of course, it's expensive dog food, but better than having a total loss." Mrs. Albert Coppedge, home demonstration club member in FRANKLIN County, says she never did get around to counting the more than 500 quarts of food she canned last year, reports Assistant Home Agent Winifred Y. Wiggins, but she did say that she practically fed her family through the winter. They had their own pork and potatoes and ate from the pantry what she had canned. They were justly proud of the savings—and they ate better than usual!

Soil Conservation News

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The soil scientist also shows the degree of erosion and slope when surveying a farm. Erosion is the movement of soil and geologic material by natural agencies, i. e., wind and water. Erosion consists of two distinct processes: Detachment and transportation. Rainsdrops that fall on unprotected soil supplies energy for the process of detachment. Flowing water is the transporting agent that completes the process of water erosion. Both wind and flowing

water may detach and transport soil particles. The purpose of soil erosion mapping is twofold: (1) To give a quantitative estimate of the changes that have occurred and (2) To give an indication of the rate of past and possible future damage. Also, it shows what is left in the way of productive surface soil. Most of the soils in Chowan County are nearly level to gently sloping. Therefore, the soils with slopes are of small acreage and the problems involved are not too great. Most of these areas having gently sloping land in Chowan County are composed of light texture soils, i. e., loamy fine sands and sand; therefore, the erosion problem on these soils are of minor importance.

Much has been learned concerning the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils and a great deal of this information is available for practical farm use. For further information as to how a farmer can obtain a soils map of his farm, please write James Griffin, Chowan County Work Unit Conservationist, P. O. Box 189, Edenton, or see him in his office in the Post Office Building. (The article above was written by Ed Karnowski, Soil Scientist of the Pamlico and Albemarle Soil Conservation Districts).

Ruby Mitchell Weds Edward P. Forman

Mrs. Ruby Mitchell announces the marriage of her daughter, Miss Donna Mitchell, to Corporal Edward P. Forman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Forman of Fox Lake, Illinois.

The marriage took place Thursday night, July 3, at 7 o'clock at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Alexander, with Mrs. Alexander, pastor of the First Christian Church, officiating.

The newlyweds are making their home at Camp Lejeune, where Corporal Forman is stationed.

Not That Way

An Irish bricklayer was on the top of the partly-built house and shouted to the foreman that he could not find his way down to the ground.

"You fool—come down the way you went up," shouted the foreman.

"Not on yer life. I came up head first," the Irishman yelled back.

BEE GEE L.P. GAS

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Dealers in BOTTLE GAS
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George Chevrolet Company, Inc.
Can Put Your Car in Tip-Top Running Shape!

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will save you money on gas and other repairs and add to your driving comfort.

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NEW Carrier Automatic Room Weathermaker

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Taylor Theatre

Edenton, N. C.

Thursday, July 10: Return Engagement—
Aldo Ray, Van Heflin and Mona Freeman in "BATTLE CRY"

Friday and Saturday, July 11-12—
All New! All-Out Adventure!

HERE HE COMES!
blasting his way into the fabled city of gold!

"THE LONE RANGER And The Lost City of Gold"

EASTMAN COLOR

CLAYTON MOORE in THE LONE RANGER
JAY SILVERHEELS
CHARLES BRACKETT
CHARLES BRACKETT
NORRIS BASH—LISA BONVILLE
WILSON BISHOP—WANDA FRISCH
ROBERT SCHAEFER
JACK WATKINS
Directed by ERIC FREEDLAND
Based on the UNITED ARTISTS

NO ADVANCE IN PRICES!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1:15 ADULT AND KIDDIE SHOW
Admission—25c

Chapter No. 2 "ZORRO'S BLACK WHIP"
Bruce Bennett in "Daniel Boone, Trailblazer"
TRU-COLOR

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, July 13-14-15—
—AND SO THEY SINNED— knowingly and unknowingly... against each other and against themselves!

GARY COOPER DIANE VARI SUZY PARKER

Ten North Frederick
CINEMASCOPE
as in GERALDINE FITZGERALD—TOM TULLY
Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT
Directed by ERIC FREEDLAND
PHILIP DUNNE

NO ADVANCE IN PRICES

Coming... July 16-17—
"BONJOUR TRISTESSE"
CINEMASCOPE AND TECHNICOLOR

Hiway 17 Drive-In Theatre
Edenton-Hertford Road

Friday and Saturday, July 11-12—
JERRY LEE LEWIS in "Jamboree"

Monday and Tuesday, July 14-15—
HENRY FONDA and ANTHONY PERKINS in "The Tin Star"

Sunday, July 13—
AUDIE MURPHY in "The Guns of Fort Petticoat"
Technicolor

Wednesday and Thursday, July 16-17—
TYRONE POWER and AVA GARDNER in "The Sun Also Rises"
CinemaScope and Color