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CURB REPORTER

Weather: Tuesday, 74, 93 . . It has been hotter in Tryon the past few days than we have ever known it, but it has been hot everywhere. Jacksonville, Fla., reports 105 high. The Lefty Flynn's write that it is hot at Sea Island, Ga. . . . Julian B. Hester, chairman of the Polk County War Bond and Stamp committee has been appointed a member of the Regional Victory Fund Committee, according to an announcement from Hugh Leach, of Richmond, Va., chairman of the Fifth Federal Reserve District Victory Fund committee. This is a recognition of Mr. Hester's achievement in the banking business as well as his patriotic work in promoting the sales of war bonds and stamps. As chairman of the Polk County Draft Board, chairman of the airplane observation posts, treasurer of the USO and chairman of the War Bond and Stamp sales drive, he has been contributing much of his time and leadership to help win the war. The purpose of the Victory Fund committee is to give whatever assistance they can to the Secretary of the Treasury in the promotion of the sale of War Bonds in the various states. The job of raising these funds is an enormous task. Seventy-seven billion dollars must be raised—much of it from individuals of small income. Soldiers and sailors are

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The Price Situation

(Contributed)

The Office of Price Administration recently allowed an increase in the retail ceiling price at which certain fruits and vegetables can be sold. At the time, Price Administrator Henderson said that he regarded the move as inflationary in nature, but that it was necessary as a result of Congress' refusal to grant subsidies to businesses in cases where the original price ceilings were not high enough to permit an adequate return.

The consumers of this country should thoroughly understand the situation. If the original price order had been allowed to stand untouched, thousands of retail stores in all lines would have been forced out of business—simply because they were legally bound to sell some goods at no profit whatsoever, and a few items at an actual loss. And if these stores are to be kept in business, it will unquestionably be necessary to increase price ceilings on a considerable number of commodities, including manufactured goods as well as food. Gasoline provides an excellent example of the problem. The necessity for shipping gas and other oil products overland instead of by tanker, has greatly increased the oil companies' costs. That increase can be made up in only one of two ways—by government subsidies, or by higher retail prices. .

There is much to be said for the subsidy suggestion. It would be temporary, and would automatically be dropped as soon as string-

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