

### U. S. WORKERS RANK SECOND IN FOOD PURCHASING POWER

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The purchasing power of American workers hourly earnings — in terms of food — ranked second among 20 countries in 1950, the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports in its February, 1951, Monthly Labor Review. Australia was the only foreign country studied where less working time was required than in the United States to buy a given amount of food.

Following Australia and the United States, in order, were: Norway, Canada, Denmark, Israel and Sweden (tied), Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, and Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands and Western Germany, Chile, France (Paris); Austria (Vienna), Hungary, Italy, and the Soviet Union.

Soviet workers had to work seven times as long as Americans to buy a given quantity of food, according to the best available estimates of 1950 earnings combined with 1950 food prices. Wage earners in Canada, Great Britain, Israel, and the Scandinavian countries had to work 20 to 64 per cent longer than Americans.

Workers in Sweden, Great Britain, and Israel were able to buy more food with their hourly earnings in 1950 than in previous years, relative to the United States.

In comparing food purchasing powers of various countries, BLS points out that between 1937-38 and the spring of 1950, U. S. food prices less than doubled and hourly earnings more than doubled — increasing the power of American workers' earnings in

terms of food at the market by about 17 per cent.

The amount of food U. S. hourly earnings can buy rose almost 5 per cent between March, 1949, and March, 1950, because of a 3 per cent drop in food prices and a 1 1-2 per cent increase in earnings. This broadened the existing gap between the food purchasing power of U. S. workers and most other foreign workers during the year.

In 13 of the 19 foreign countries covered in the survey the purchasing power of the wages of workers with family responsibilities is increased by means of family allowances. In some of these countries, the increase is substantial. The largest family allowances are reported from France, where the food purchasing power of the worker with a wife and two children is one third higher with the family allowance than without it.

The Bureau stresses the difficulty in evaluating the economic significance of these variations in work time required to buy food in different countries. War damage in most of the foreign countries increased the disparity between U. S. and foreign food purchasing power in the postwar period as compared with prewar. Currency devaluations in September, 1949, were a factor in changing food purchasing powers between 1949 and 1950.

Differences in food purchasing powers cannot be considered indicators of the relative well-being of wage earners in different countries, since indexes of the purchasing power of earnings in terms of food are but one factor concerning relative welfare, BLS notes.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

## Cost Of Living Index Brought Up-To-Date

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The UAW-AFL Research Department has received several inquiries relevant to the government's announced changes in its computation of the cost of living index. Users of the UAW-AFL Binder are particularly concerned as to how this will affect monthly releases under the cost of living section.

Beginning with January, 1951, figures, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will issue both the improved adjusted index and the old index as compiled heretofore. The UAW-AFL research service will supply both figures with the complete breakdown for the old series—the one which will be used by those unions having escalator clauses in their contracts. As new contracts are signed, they are expected to embody the new cost of living index and eventually this will replace the old one.

Index includes:  
1. Correction of the rent index to take account of the effects of higher rents charged for newly built rental units.

2. The use of 1950 population figures in combining separate city indexes into a U. S. index.

3. Modernization of the market basket of goods and services priced for the index to reflect postwar consumption and spending habits. Both the items priced and the importance attached to various items in the market basket are being adjusted to reflect the pattern of family spending today.

### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP BRING PRICES DOWN

WASHINGTON. — The United Labor Conference adopted this program for action:

The need for an effective anti-inflation program dealing with prices, rents and taxes is obvious to all the American people.

Action must be undertaken by the Administration and by Congress to protect every American and to safeguard the defense program itself.

Action will be taken if the American people make their voice heard in unmistakable terms.

To carry out the declaration of principles adopted here today, we agree:

1. To enlist co-operation in support of this anti-inflation program from all community organizations which support our democratic institutions and are devoted to the anti-totalitarian objectives of American defense program.

2. To promote public meetings, radio and television programs, speeches before community groups and other appropriate means of alerting every citizen to the need of improved defense mobilization and anti-inflation policies.

3. To forward letters, telegrams, petitions and memorials to President Truman and members of Congress in support of the principle of equal sacrifice and fair play in the mobilization program. Our first objective is the improvement of the Defense Production Act.

4. To help establish local consumer committees through which the people may be fully advised of the developments in Washington, violations of price regulations may be publicized, and to co-operate with public spirited merchants for local anti-inflation programs.

6. To secure the widest publicity through the labor press and, if necessary, through the purchase of local radio time and newspaper space, for the voting record of senators and congressmen on major bills, affecting the fight against inflation and for a better defense mobilization program.

To this program of action, we pledge our united effort.

When you see a Union Shop Card you know the firm which displays it pays Union wages and observes Union working conditions. Non-Union firms do not display the Shop Card. Look for it!

#### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

North Carolina, Mecklenburg County. IN THE SUPERIOR COURT Ben S. Stephens, Plaintiff, vs. Elsie N. Stephens, Defendant.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Mecklenburg County, N. C., for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce from the defendant on the grounds of adultery.

And the defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Mecklenburg County within twenty days (20) from the day of which service by publication in the cause is completed, or within twenty days (20) from the 5th day of May, 1951, and answer or demur to the complaint filed in this action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 13th day of April, 1951.

MARY S. POYTHRESS, Assistant Clerk of the Superior Court. (4-12, 19, 26; 5-3-p)

### LOCAL LABOR GETS WARNING FROM ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The following letter sent out by the St. Petersburg Florida Central Labor Union is self-explanatory. Local Labor organizations are advised to be on their guard.

Important Notice Be on the lookout for RAYMOND MORREL PARKS, description as follows:

Age 46. Complexion: Medium. Hair: Light brown, very thin nearing bald. Height 5 feet 10 1-2 inches. Weight: 172 or heavier.

He is wanted by this central body for embezzling \$600.00 plus bad checks of \$200.00 and a personal note of \$300.00. He is also wanted by many merchants here on bad check charges.

This man specializes in selling advertising signs on a commission basis for labor halls.

He is a very smooth salesman and will promote all forms of letters of recommendation and credit. He then goes into his routine wherein he gets everything he can get and then leaves town.

Beware of this man and above all do not allow him the privilege of selling advertising for your labor hall.

Fraternally yours, C. B. BROWN, President W. J. EVANS, Secretary.

### FOOD GAMBLERS GET FAT WHILE FOOD PRICES GO HIGHER

The smart boys are gambling in food. It's better than stocks or horses. That's because you need to pay only 10 per cent down to buy corn, wheat, soybeans or other farm products in commodity markets.

But if you want to buy a chunk of General Motors or some other company listed on a stock exchange, you have to put down 75 per cent. And if you're playing the ponies, you have to plunk down cash on the barrelhead.

Gambling going on in food is a big reason you pay so much for groceries. The big-business defense program has placed no restrictions on food gamblers. Congress last year beat a proposal to control food gamblers.

William Fairfield, a farm expert, tells how you can get rich quick by gambling in food in an article, "How Speculators Increase Our Food Bill," in the March 20 issue of The Reporter magazine:

"A man who has \$750 to speculate with can buy at most \$1,000 worth of stock. On a commodity exchange, however, the same \$750 can get him contracts for as much as \$7,500 worth of a farm product.

"If the stock goes up 10 per cent to \$1,100, he can sell at a profit of \$100. If the farm product goes up the same 10 per cent, to \$8,250, he can sell at a profit of \$750. . . .

"Most of the trading on the commodity exchanges was speculative. That is, the traders played no direct part in the marketing or processing of the farm commodity involved. They were interested only in making a profit from price changes. . . .

"On one particular day last summer . . . more than 8 in every 10 bushels of December wheat and more than 9 in every 10 bushels of November soybeans traded on the Chicago Board of Trade were bought and sold by speculators.

"During 1950, the volume of soybean futures traded on that exchange amounted to more than 15 times the size of the entire U. S. crop."

### RENTS JUMP SKY HIGH WHEN RENT CONTROLS ARE OFF

Rent control ended in Hammond, Ind., March 2. By the middle of March the office of Rep. Ray Madden (D., Ind.), whose district includes Hammond, was swamped with protests.

Telegram after telegram add up to this: Hammond landlords are gouging the city's tenants. Here are some of the wires:

"Rent decontrolled. Landlords hog wild. We are at their mercy. Can anything be done? Please help . . ."

"Since rent decontrol our rent for one and a half rooms has increased from \$50 to \$75. My salary has increased 10 per cent. What is to be done?"

"I beseech you to act at once regarding unfair rentals. My rent is to jump 65 per cent first of next month. Now I ask you in God's name, is that fair?"

"Since rent controls were removed in Hammond our rent, one and a half room apartment, has been increased 50 per cent. Unfair."

"Since rent decontrol in Hammond I have had my rent increased 58.5 per cent. This is certainly unjust."

"Since rent decontrol has gone into effect in Hammond, Ind., my rent has been increased from \$55 to \$77.50. Seems unfair."

#### Peeping Toms

It's got so a Britisher can't take his "bawth" without the Socialist Labor government having its say on the subject, a London dispatch reveals.

The Ministry of Health, with an eye to the need for austerity under Socialistic production schedules, notes the average family using 18 gallons of hot water daily, compared with six in 1939.

"A good sign, but we must discourage waste!" the Ministry warns.

#### Work Directed By Electric Eye

To speed production and increase accuracy in cutting metal parts from sheets or bars, an Eastern manufacturer has developed an electronic instrument which follows the lines of a drawing with an electric eye.

Draftsmen prepare the drawing and place it under a microscope. The electric eye is focused on the lines. That sends out an electric signal to guide the cutting tool, which can follow a curve as small as that of the pupil of the eye.

Organic matter is essential to profitable production of every crop; it increases the ability of the soil to absorb and hold water, and improves the structure of the soil and its ability to utilize plant foods, especially nitrogen

Coke for refreshment  
DRINK Coca-Cola  
5¢  
BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY  
COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY  
HENDERSON, N. C.

## TAYLOR BROTHERS INC.

Manufacturers of FINE CHEWING TOBACCO

308 East First Street  
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

## Piedmont Federal Savings and Loan Association

COMPLIMENTS

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

### GUILFORD HOSIERY MILLS, INC.

Manufacturers of FINE HOSIERY

High Point, North Carolina

In Arkansas, where they have about as vicious a state law against Unions as you'll be able to find anywhere, the state supreme court ruled that picketing is just as basic an American right as free speech. The ruling came in a case where the strike already had been settled. The Arkansas court ordered the lower court to wipe the injunction off the books.

On March 23 the railroads announced that they're now going after a 15 per cent increase in freight rates. If their past success on this score is any indication, they'll get it.

### BELK-MARTIN COMPANY

"LEXINGTON'S SHOPPING CENTER"

LEXINGTON, N. C.

### CARRICK TURNING WORKS

QUALITY WOOD TURNINGS

812 Millis Street  
HIGH POINT, N. C.

### REST-A-BIT SERVICE STATION

3630 East Market Street Telephone 3-1578

### BATTS TRANSFER COMPANY

3703 E. Market Street Telephone 3-1578

GREENSBORO, N. C.

### SUMMIT SHOPPING CENTER

Summit Avenue

A. & P. Super Market	Roses 5c, 10c and 25c Stores
Guilford Dairy Bar	Deifell's Dept. Store
Summit Center Cleaners	McKnight's Hardware Store
Daily Maid Bakery	Summit Center Jewelers
Edmonds Drug Store	Coble's Barber Shop
Ennis Beauty Salon	Dick's Shoe Shop
Wells Esso Service	Eubanks Laundromat

GREENSBORO, N. C.

### CAMEL CITY LAUNDRY

And DRY CLEANING CO.

508 East Fourth Street  
Telephone 6196  
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

### There is Nothing Finer than to Live in North Carolina

From the mountains to the seashore, North Carolinians are beginning to move outdoors. The Spring season opens strong in Asheville in May. State conventions of Civitans, Lions, K. of C., American Legion, Postmasters, Jaycees, Daughters of America and Industrial Safety Conference are all scheduled for that month.

Along with the beach resorts, fishing takes over now on the coast and it's time to renew your license for inland waters fishing. Best fishing days in May are from the 5th through the 20th—but every day is a good day in May in North Carolina.

Plenty of work and plenty of fun makes the ideal balance to good living here at home and, for refreshing relaxation anytime, most of us can enjoy a temperate glass of beer—sold under our ABC system of legal control that is working so well.

North Carolina Division  
UNITED STATES BREWERS FOUNDATION, INC.