

FOOD PRICES GENERALLY STABLE

Out Of 16 Cities Studied Some Showing Lower Prices

Retail food prices in southern cities, with the exception of Jacksonville, Mobile, and Savannah, remained generally stable during June, according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the South. Of the sixteen selected southern cities included in the June survey, approximately two-thirds reported fractionally lower prices and the remaining cities showed no change or fractionally higher prices. Changes during the month varied from an overall decline of 0.8 per cent in Birmingham and Houston to an increase of 0.8 per cent in Savannah. Retail food prices showed little or no change during June in Charleston, Little Rock and Winston-Salem.

Of the important food items included in this monthly survey of retail food prices, fruits and vegetables, fats and oils, and chickens led the downward trend in most cities. Fruits and vegetables showed the greatest decline in Birmingham, down 4.1 per cent, in Houston 3.8 per cent, and 2.4 per cent in Norfolk. Fats and oils were down generally, led by drops of 3.2 per cent in Mobile, 2.9 per cent in Jackson, and 2.7 per cent in New Orleans. Chicken prices were lower in a majority of southern cities — 4 per cent or more in Atlanta and Knoxville and substantially higher in Mobile — 8.4 per cent, and over 6 per cent higher in Birmingham and Jacksonville. Although dairy products were down over 2 per cent in Memphis they remained stable during June in most cities.

Egg prices, however, rose substantially during the month, varying in increase from 0.1 per cent in New Orleans to 5.4 per cent in Richmond and 9.8 per cent in Winston-Salem. Retail prices of beverages and sugar and sweets remained firm with higher prices reported in Dallas, Charleston, and Knoxville.

Meats, poultry and fish prices were generally stable during June — lower prices were noted in Atlanta, Little Rock and Richmond, and fractionally higher prices in six of the remaining cities.

Cereals and bakery products were lower in most southern cities, varying in decline from 2.9 per cent in Jackson to 1.3 and 1.1 per cent respectively in Birmingham and New Orleans.

EMERGENCY DEFENSE HANDBOOK PUBLISHED

Planned to appear quarterly, a new "Handbook of Emergency Defense Activities" has been issued by the General Services Administration.

The handbook is a guide to Federal agencies, all or part of whose functions are devoted to mobilization or to other related phases of the defense program.

To assist the public in reaching the proper service in connection with the defense program, the handbook presents brief organizational outlines and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of officials of emergency defense agencies and their field offices, together with similar data on the Department of Defense and the U. S. Coast Guard.

For ready reference, there are included a subject index, a name index, a list of commonly used abbreviations for Government agencies, and a separate list of officials from whom information may be obtained concerning additional Federal agencies.

The handbook may be purchased for 25 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

"TIME-BOMB"

"We're sitting on an economic time-bomb . . . Business as usual" has an ominous ring to me at a time when men are dying in battle in Korea for a free way of life.—Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston in a radio speech, June 3rd.

Confessions Of A Strikebreaker

By E. W. SCRIPPS, Founder of Scripps-Howard Newspaper Syndicate

I was 19 when I was interested in a certain corporation that employed skilled labor. The workmen declared a strike. There were less than 40 laborers, nearly all known to me personally. I had little respect for their wisdom or common sense. The strike began. It was significant of my self-conceit and my cheek that I went before the board of directors and told them that I had a way of breaking the strike if I were permitted to do certain things. I laid out before them my plan which seemed to them good.

Inside a week I had replaced every striker with as good a man as himself. No matter how! Then the old workmen came to me to tell what their agreements had been and what their present hardships were. As I said 'I knew all of them personally. At their solicitation I visited a number of their homes. I saw things that made me feel ashamed at the part I had been playing.

Without saying anything to the old-fossil directors, I undertook to make the acquaintance and learn something about the character of the strikebreakers. All or nearly all the strikers were married men with families. Every one of the strikebreakers was unmarried and comparatively young, some of them very young. By one means and another I and the old workmen persuaded every one of these newcomers to leave. In order to save the faces of the dignified, superior men who formed the directorate of the company, the old workmen made some concessions in their demands and were allowed to return. It was not more than two weeks later that business as usual was going on in that institution. The men whom I had been dealing with were members of the union. For the first time I learned from them what unionism meant and what its history had been. And then I had had this experience with the directors, who were really not directors, at all, but merely old foos-foos, who were themselves directed by an employe manager.

From that time on in such a small way as I could, I have been leveling my guns at the employer class, whether they be capitalists or mere borrowers of capital.

FEDERATION MEETING OPENS NEXT MONDAY

(Continued From Page 1)

Director of Organization Joseph Jacobs, Vice President R. S. Whitmire of Asheville, and other top officials of the UTWofA, will be in charge of these meetings of the textile workers. Plans have been completed for having delegations from all plants in Western North Carolina and some from other sections of the state, and from other states, attend these meetings and discuss with International officials the best way to bring the unorganized groups into the Union. Pay rates in Union plants will be compared to the rates prevailing in unorganized plants, and benefits enjoyed by the workers in Union plants in addition to the wage rates, will be studied.

Local Unions of the Upholsterers International Union will meet prior to the State Federation convention to prepare a complete statement to the convention proper about the gains that have been made for members of the Upholsterers. This International has numerous strong local organizations in this section and in other sections of the state. C. F. Bradley, of Asheville, is vice president of the Upholsterers International, and is in charge of this rapidly growing International Union.

Delegates attending the convention from local unions of the Fire Fighters Association over the state will hold a meeting and compare notes of the advancements being made by the members of fire departments in several cities of the state. C. D.

CATTLE FEEDER SAYS HIS PROFITS JUMPED

An Illinois cattle feeder has told Sen. Paul Douglas (D., Ill.), who led the fight to cut meat prices, to stick by his guns.

"The present set-up made my farm operator and myself above average profits on 51 steers we fed out this last season," this small farmer in the heavy cattle-feeding section of northwestern Illinois wrote Douglas June 27. Douglas put the letter in the June 29 Congressional Record.

"Personally we do not want a change," continues the farmer, whom Douglas did not name, "but in fairness to the city consumer and laborer under present wage set-up there should be some type of control . . .

"There has got to be a leveling off of the wage-food spiral somewhere to avoid a national economic blow-up. Stick by your guns."

Hensley of Asheville, recently elevated to the state presidency of the Fire Fighters Association of North Carolina, will be in charge of this conference.

Delegates from Police Local Unions throughout the state also will meet in a special pre-convention gathering to compare notes and make suggestions to the State Federation of Labor convention. The Asheville local of Police will have a most interesting story to present to their state council meeting, and later to the convention as a whole.

Another group, the furniture workers branch of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, will have a very interesting report to make to the Furniture Workers division of the Carpenters and Joiners. J. C. Ray, president of the local at the Black Mountain plant of Morgan Manufacturing company, one of the best locals in the state, will be in charge of this pre-convention meet.

So, you see, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11 to the 15th will be busy days for the Organized Labor Movement.

BUSINESSMEN STILL GOING FULL BLAST

Claims that high taxes ruin a businessman's incentive are not true.

You can take the word of the Harvard School of Business Administration for that. Prof. Thomas Sanders says in a study, "Effects of Taxation on Executives," just published by Harvard:

"The evidence is overwhelming that the business executive is putting a full measure of work and energy into his regular job. His grumbling at the taxes he pays, and his wry illusions to morking most of the time for government rather than for himself are only a superficial front on the large fact that his effort is not abated by reason of them. He is still going full blast."

I. B. E. W. WINS CO-OP.

Greenville, Texas.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 69, received a twenty-to-one favorable vote in a recent National Labor Relations Board election among the employes of the Farmers Electric Co-Op., Inc.

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!

LABOR'S FUTURE BOUND UP IN POLITICS

"Whatever future organized labor has in this country is bound inextricably in politics," says an editorial in the East Tennessee Labor News of July 5.

"We must register. We must vote. We must elect liberal and social-minded Senators and Representatives. The same is true of city, county and state officials.

"Proof that our future lies in politics became even more pronounced . . . when Congress passed a weakened extension . . . of the Defense Production Act.

"Congress very carefully ordered Price Administrator DiSalle not to put into effect administrative orders to roll back prices on several lines of goods. That keeps prices up. "Now what did Congress do for wages? Well, Congress kept them frozen at 10 per cent above January 15, 1951, levels . . .

"The maze of governmental laws, restrictions and special privileges go un-understood by average people. What we do understand, though, is that our weekly pay-check won't keep the home fires burning. We also know that Congress has something to do with this state of affairs."

Former OPA Head Says There's No Evidence Inflation Has Aided Labor

The former head of OPA, Chester Bowles, says "there is no shred of evidence that labor generally has profited from inflation."

"Weekly take-home pay for workers in manufacturing, expressed in the purchasing power of 1951 dollars, has scarcely moved in the last six years," continues Bowles. "The real wages of government employes and office workers have gone down. Construction workers and retail workers alone over the six-year pull are slightly better off on the average. . . .

"When we look at corporation profits . . . certain facts stand out spectacularly . . . Corporation profits are now running at a rate in excess of \$50 billion before taxes, and \$24 billion after taxes. This represents a corporation profit increase of close to 100 per cent since the peak war period, either before or after taxes.

"Manufacturing profits after taxes are now 17 per cent on investment, which is more than double the percentages of the boom year of 1929. And 50 per cent of all corporation dividends, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission, are concentrated among 61,000 people . . . This uneven economic picture has already resulted in considerable bitterness on the part of the general public."

N. C. BUILDING TRADESMEN REPORT SUCCESSFUL MEET

(Continued from Page 1) president-at-large for North Carolina.

Among the North Carolina delegation attending the meeting were P. M. Taylor, Henry C. Sawyer, G. L. Hitchens, J. B. Mills, Jr., W. N. Ray, Oscar Bryant, C. S. Woods and Carl L. Bowen, all of Durham, John Lovett and Phil Hughes of Charlotte, Askew of Goldsboro and Knopf of Winston-Salem.

The next meeting of the Southeastern Building Trades will be held in Louisville, Kentucky sometime in January.

A resolution presented at the Washington conference by Perry Taylor and H. C. Sawyer of Durham in which the Durham delegates pointed out the inequities in wage scales throughout the southeast as compared with the rest of the country follows:

WHEREAS it is impossible to keep workers from migrating to higher wage rate areas, so we might service the various defense plants under construction in the Southeastern States.

WHEREAS the cost of living in the Southeastern states are on a par with the northern states, and on several commodities they are much higher.

WHEREAS the wage rates in several Southeastern states are below the national average for building tradesmen.

WHEREAS the wage stabilization board said that they were going to make concessions in lower paid areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Southeastern Conference respectfully request the Wage Stabilization Board, to take off the wage freeze for these areas until these areas are given a chance to equal the national average wage rates.

Respectfully submitted by The North Carolina Building Trades Council P. M. Taylor, President H. C. Sawyer, Secretary.

THE PLASTERER'S GLEE

We are a band of plasterers We beautify man's home, Without our magic art Oh, say, what would be Greece or Rome?

It was Hiram Brave, a widow's son, God's temple did adorn, And the plasterer's trowel Made it seem as though of beauty born.

The Sistine and the Vatican, St. Peter's majestic dome, Were by the plasterer's trowel Prepared for the grand cartoons of Rome, Until a Titian, a Raphael, and an Angel in glorious frescoes shine That might be said to be born of the brain of Jove Divine.

The splendors of our Capitol, And of the Taj Mahal, The Parisian's pride—fair Notre Dame, And London's grand St. Paul, Are to the plasterer's art accreted.

The plastic art by God to man was given that so might man's enlightened heart cemented be to heaven. Then glory be to the plasterer art,

So beautiful and bright; It cheers both man and woman's heart, With life, with love, with light.

We meet upon the level, We part upon the square; In union sweet our true hearts beat, And joys and sorrows share.

We are a band of plasterers, By love's cement united; By the trowel and not the sword Our brotherhood is knighted. —Plasterers Journal.

DIVIDEND CHECKS VS. DRAFT NOTICES

"This is not the time to give priority to the fat dividend check over the draft notices . . ."

So said Jack Shelley (D., Calif.) June 29 while the House was debating a new controls bill.

"A wild inflation," Shelley said in arguing for a strong price control bill, "can be more devastating to our chances of survival than an atomic bomb attack unless we provide ourselves with the defenses necessary to stop its spread.

"Prices of many individual commodities . . . sky-rocketed alarmingly in response to rigging of the markets by unscrupulous profiteers."

BOGGETT
211 E. Park Ave. Phone 6179
LUMBER CO.
It Pays To Trade With

START
A Savings Account NOW
THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK
Charlotte, N. C.

Pianos
Price Right At \$525.00
Terms—\$50 Cash, \$25 per mo.
Write, Wire, Phone For Catalog
Parker-Gardner Co.
222 W. Trade Phone 622

KEY FOR "WAS IT A GOOD UNION MEETING?"
After you add up the "yes" and "no" responses of the questionnaire on Page 2 of the Labor Journal, here is how Dr. Murphy would interpret your score:
Rating of Meeting: compare the "yes" column:
Score 20-18—Excellent meeting.
17-15—Good meeting.
14—Fair to poor meeting.

For Indigestion, Sour Stomach and Gas, Take
NA-CO TABLETS
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
SELWYN CUT RATE DRUG STORE
NEXT TO POST OFFICE

SERVING THE SOUTH WITH GREATER FOOD VALUES!
Shop And Save At The Sign Of The CS Rooster
Colonial Stores

HOW LUCKY CAN YOU GET?
WELL, YOU MIGHT find a gold mine, providing you know where to look. Maybe you'll inherit a fortune from a rich uncle, if you've got a rich uncle.
But, in the final analysis, it's usually the guy who looks ahead, who plans and works and saves for the future, that ends up with all the marbles.
Here, as in no other country in the world, you've got a chance to do just that. Experts predict that during the next ten years this country will experience the greatest economic boom in its history and . . .
There's no time like the present for you to start salting a little something away—each month—in U. S. SAVINGS BONDS!
Backed to the hilt by Uncle Sam, Bonds pay you 4 dollars for every 3 dollars invested. At the same time, Savings Bonds are one of the safest, surest places to invest your money.
And here's the pay-off! Savings Bonds can be purchased under either of two entirely automatic plans. Signing up for either plan makes saving, for you, a positive certainty!
Automatic saving is sure saving U.S. SAVINGS BONDS