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OPS Warns Price Trend Will Continue Soaring

All signs point to still higher prices in the next few months, the Office of Price Stabilization warned.

Director Mike DiSalle told the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production:

"Defense expenditures are now estimated at a slightly higher rate in the present fiscal year... Crop prospects have become less favorable than they were three months ago..."

More Danger
 "All of this adds up to more inflationary danger, not less... In fact, the price trend already seems to have turned..."

"Almost all sub-groups of the BLS Wholesale Price Index have risen since last August. Textiles, one of the few exceptions, now have also started up—rising from a recent low of 157.0 on October to 159.3 on November 13, a rise of 1 1-2 per cent in only two weeks."

Spot Prices Rise
 "The BLS Index of Sensitive Spot Market Prices also hit a low at the end of August and has since risen from 323.1 (August 31) to 328.2 (November 20)—almost 2 per cent."

"The BLS Consumer Price Index reached a record high of 187.4 on October 15 (latest available.) It was stable from May 15 (185.4) to August 15 (185.5) but now has gone up for two months again—with an increase in apparel prices."

"Reading the report on Senator John Marshall Butler's campaign in Maryland is like walking through a political sewer."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

AFL COPPER WORKERS GET 20 CENTS HIKE

Copper industry employes represented by AFL Metal Trades unions received wage increases totaling more than 20 cents an hour.

James A. Brownlow, president AFL Metal Trades Department, said that the Wage Stabilization Board approved pay increases negotiated as a result of a dispute last summer.

He said the members in AFL unions employed by three of the big four copper companies would receive eight cents per hour general raise hike, an average eight cents an hour more through a job classification schedule and the equivalent of 4 1-2 cents an hour in pension fund.

The AFL represents more than 50,000 employes of Kennecott Copper Co., Phelps Dodge Corp., American Smelting & Refining Co. A similar contract with Anaconda Copper Co. is pending before WSB.

SEATON TO FILL WHERRY'S SEAT

A Nebraska publisher will fill the Senate seat of the late Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R., Neb.)

Fred A. Seaton of Hastings was appointed to the vacant seat on December 10 by Gov. Val Peterson.

Seaton will serve until a new Senator is elected in 1952. Wherry died on November 29.

Wherry was the Republican leader in the Senate. A new leader will be elected when the Senate meets in January.

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