

one city employee group to gain wage increases of 10 to 15 per cent. Figures between January and August, 1947, showed that the wage earners' salaries in that city had increased only 30 per cent while the cost of living climbed 59 per cent, leaving real wages at a *minus* 18 per cent. An analysis of the increases showed the hounds of HCL gobbling up the following increases:

- Dairy products, 74.9%
- Meat, poultry, fish 125.9%
- Fruits and vegetables, 114.1%
- Clothing, 74.9%
- House furnishings, 71.7%
- Rent, 4.7%

The *Oregon Statesman* in Salem listed the following comparison of food prices in Salem as of February, 1940 and 1948. "Taking a general average (difficult to estimate because of qual-

ity differentiations and because the offerings of merchants vary with their own particular supply of specific items), here is what a rough comparison shows," says the writer:

| | 1940 | 1948 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| Sugar, lb. | 5c | 9c |
| Coffee, lb. | 25c | 50c |
| Canned corn | 10c | 18c |
| Margarine | 15c | 40c |
| Butter | 40c | 92c |
| Eggs | 35c | 70c |
| Soap | 5c | 11c |
| Cooking oils, pt. | 20c | 42c |
| Bread | 12½c | 22c |
| Pork roast, lb. | 12½c | 50c |
| Pork steak | 15c | 55c |
| Ground beef | 13c | 45c |
| Smelt | 6c | 26c |
| Pot roast | 18c | 50c |

(Partial list reprinted here.)

Prices Climb, But State Employee "Forgotten Man"

The taxpaying public, the merchants, legislators, contractors and others, as well as state employees, have an interest in a satisfactory solution of the state's present wage problem and in other improvements in the public service rendered by state governmental state functions.

Some pertinent facts and figures which follow should be of interest to all.

Merchants will be interested because it will show why the employee is forced to ask for extended credit when he does buy.

Some members of the 1947 state legislature will be interested because they can now determine how far wrong their predictions were when, a year ago, they predicted a decrease in living costs beginning in the summer of that year, and introduced a bill to cut employees' salaries 5 per cent along about January, 1948, supposedly in the middle of the "depression."

The tax-paying public will be interested because the tabulations will show that their tax dollars are not going to "high-salaried" employees, but do show why service to the public is sometimes not all that it should be.

State employees will be interested because it will show them that they are justified in being critical of the way the state has handled the salary problem. It will show why many hundreds of their fellow workers have taken employment in private industry and why they themselves must do extra work on the outside or put the "little woman" to work in order to pay the grocery-man.

The following tabulation was prepared by the state budget division and reflects salaries paid in December, 1947, to employees in the classified service, i. e. employees under civil service. It does not include elected officials, members of boards or commissions, department heads, judges, legislators or the