

**WHAT IS IT—MORE OR LESS?**

**1949 Personal Income Higher Than in '39—But Who Benefits?**

By JAMES MARLOW  
Washington, Dec. 1 (AP)—When you talk of income, it always comes down to a question like this: "What's a dollar worth? How much will it buy? So, even though I'm making more than last year, am I really better off?" A few days ago the government—through the federal reserve board—issued a report on income.

It said that in 1939 personal income—since it was personal income it did not include the profits of corporations—was \$73 billion.

But in September, 1949, personal income was \$211 billion, or almost three times greater than in 1939.

Did that mean that Americans—on the average—in 1949 were making three times what they made in 1939? No.

The \$211 billion personal income for 1949 was a total figure. No average was involved. To begin with, things in 1949 were different from 1939.

In 1939, with 45½ million employed, there were about 8½ million unemployed. In 1949 about 60 million people were employed, with unemployment running around 1½ million.

So the increase in the number of people employed alone would be bound to increase the total figure on personal income, plus the fact, and it's a very important one, that wages and salaries have climbed.

But, since personal income was \$211 billion in 1949 and only \$73 billion in 1937, were Americans generally three times better off now than 1939? No.

For one thing, higher taxes have taken a big bite out of the higher incomes of Americans. In addition, the increase in living costs has chewed up the value of the income.

Living costs in 1949 were 67 per cent higher than in 1939.

Higher taxes and increased living costs cut into the income of everybody who has an income. The most convenient example is that of the factory worker, since the government has a lot of figures on him and not such detailed ones on other people.

Take the average pay of a worker in the manufacturing industry. In 1939 it was \$23.86. In 1949, it was \$55.72, or \$31.86 more.

Was he thus \$31.86 better off, with that much more money to spend than he had in 1939? No.

The higher 1949 tax and living costs reduced the total and the value of his 1949 income.

For example: Take that same average pay of the worker in the manufacturing industry.

In 1939 his pay was \$23.86. After deducting taxes—this was for a man with no dependents—he had \$23.58.

In 1949 his pay was \$55.72. After deducting the higher 1949 taxes and allowing for the higher living costs, his pay was worth \$28.67 in terms of 1939 dollars and buying power.

To put it another way: In 1949 he had \$4.09 more a week than he had in 1939.

All this—the information comes from the government's bureau of labor statistics—has dealt with the "average" weekly pay of a worker in the manufacturing industry.

Since it's an "average" figure, it means some workers made more a week, some less, than the average of \$55.72.

For example, and this information comes from the statistics bureau, too:

The highest paid workers in the manufacturing industry are the mechanical workers on newspapers, such as printers and so on.

In September, 1949, they were averaging \$80.33 a week. In 1939 they averaged \$37.58.

Now take the lowest paid workers in the manufacturing industry. They're the work-shirt-makers.

In September, 1949, they averaged \$27.35 a week. In 1939 they averaged \$11.03.

**Prayer Meeting Held**

Falls City—Cottage prayer meeting was held at the home of Marion Fleming. Mrs. Gilbert Johnson was in charge of the meeting and she also led the devotionals. Those attending were Mrs. Gilbert Johnson, Mrs. Bertha Harrington, Mrs. Vernon Murphy, Mr. Fleming, Mr. H. P. Williams, Mrs. Leslie Grippin, Lois, Lillian and Wayne Grippin and Mrs. Jessie Moyer.

**Ike Deplores too Big Government**

New York, Dec. 1 (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, addressing a group of Scottish-Americans, said last night that too much emphasis is being placed on personal security at the expense of individual liberty.

The Columbia university president endorsed the doctrine of Thomas Jefferson that the best government is the one which governs least.

"As we face our problems today and consider their nature," he said, "we measure the severity of those problems with the degree that we have drifted away from the simple principles with which we began."

"We can recognize the degree we have changed when the definition of a liberal is a man in Washington who wants to play the almighty with our money."

Addressing 1,100 members and guests of the St. Andrew's society of New York state at its 193rd annual banquet, Eisenhower commented on the characteristic thrift and independence of the Scots. Then he said:

"We seek an illusory thing called security. I wonder how many Scotsmen had the word 'security' in their adventures during their fight for freedom."

Speaking of the many white crosses he has seen in different parts of the world, he said:

"The men under those crosses were there because they believed there was something more than merely assuring themselves that they weren't going to be hungry at the age of 87."

"They believed that man should carve his own future for himself and his family, economically and every other way."

**Premier de Gasperi Defeats Commies**

Rome, Dec. 1 (AP)—Premier Alcide de Gasperi defeated the communists in a senate confidence test last night and warned them to stop their attacks against the Catholic church.

A communist motion of no-confidence in de Gasperi's government was defeated, 182 to 89, with nine senators abstaining. The house of deputies earlier had given the premier an easy victory on the same issue.

De Gasperi charged that the communist party had distributed an anti-vatican booklet and that their fellow travelers, leftwing socialists, sought to stir up organized opposition to the church.

**Olliver Gets Student Case**

The supreme court has assigned Circuit Judge Victor Olliver of Linn county to hear trial of the case of 18 high school students suspended for alleged affiliation with secret societies and who are seeking retention in school by means of court action. A temporary injunction has

allowed the students to return to school pending determination by the court as to whether the school board acted in "an arbitrary and capricious" manner as alleged in the complaint in suspension of the students.

Hearing is set for December 7 although it is likely some preliminary sparring will be undertaken before the matter comes up for final determination.

The case had previously been assigned to Judge Earl C. LaTourrette of Clackamas county

who signed the original order allowing a temporary injunction which sent the boys back to school.

Attorneys for the boys have averred in their pleadings that the school board failed to make "a fair and impartial investigation" before the ouster.

Tiny green plants grow inside some one-celled animals, using up the waste gas produced by the animals. The plant, in turn, produces oxygen and sugar for the animal.

**Four Corners School Has First Assembly Program**

Four Corners, Dec. 1—The Four Corners Lincoln school held their first assembly on Tuesday in the new auditorium. Arthur V. Myers principal, spoke to the school. The Lincoln Mother's club will meet Friday, December 2 at 1:30 p.m., at the school. Miss Margaret McDevitt, art supervisor for Salem public schools, will speak to the mothers. There will be special music. Hostesses for this meeting will be the first grade mothers from Mrs. Carson's room.

will meet each Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Robert Burns leader, Mrs. Francis Miller co-leader.

Miss Ruth Deckard was honored guest at her parent's home when Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Deckard were hosts at dinner complimenting their daughter upon her birthday anniversary. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hardie Phillips, Janice Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. John Deckard, John, Jr., and Linda Deckard and Miss Ginny Shewfelt of Chicago.

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