

October Living Cost Said at Lowest Level Since June of 1953

Washington—(U.P.)—The cost of living declined in October to the lowest level since June, 1953. The decline cost 1,300,000 auto, aircraft, and farm equipment workers a penny an hour in p. y., the government reported today.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said that falling food prices brought its index of consumer prices down two-tenths of one per cent between September and October, to 114.5 per cent of

average 1947-49 prices. This was the third straight month of decline. It put the index eight-tenths of one per cent below the record high of October, 1953, and one-tenth of one per cent below the previous 1954 low set in April.

Cost of Living
The cut in pay for the 1,300,000 workers, which becomes effective in the first pay day in December, wipes out all the increases that the workers gained over the past year through their cost of living escalator clauses in wage contracts.

The pay cut also comes at a time when the CIO United Auto Workers are preparing to negotiate 1955 wage increase demands.

The price index decline was attributed mainly to a decline of one-half of one per cent in food prices. BLS said food prices dropped in almost all of the 46 cities surveyed for the index.

Deputy BLS Commissioner Arnyess Joy Wickens said that indications are that food prices have continued to decline this month.

Poultry Prices Drop
Mrs. Wickens also added that it is "quite clear" that Thanksgiving turkey dinners will cost less this year than last. She said turkey prices, particularly, have declined, with retail prices reported at four to 10 cents a pound lower than last year.

Biggest food price declines between September and October were in pork and poultry. Pork prices dropped in every city, mostly by three to seven per cent, and reached the lowest levels for this year, BLS said. Price decreases for poultry were even larger, it said.

BLS also reported "large decreases" in prices of household equipment such as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, toasters, and stoves.

Britisher Accused As Spy for Russia

London—(U.P.)—A former British army clerk accused of spying confessed that he was sent by a Soviet diplomat to spy on U. S. Navy headquarters in London, a Scotland Yard agent testified today.

Chief Inspector Charles Ward said the defendant, John Clarence, 27, told him he called at the big U. S. naval center in Grosvenor Square "at the suggestion" of a Russian attaché named Parabanov. His mission was to make friends among the Americans.

The Soviet Embassy told newsmen there was an Ivan Ilyich Barabanov, who is the second secretary. The embassy had no other comment.

Bamboo, of varying species, can be grown easily in the United States along the coast from southeast Virginia to Texas.

US National Bank Stock Exchange Plan Approved

Portland—(U.P.)—A multi-million-dollar stock exchange plan that would merge 12 more banking institutions with the statewide chain of the United States National Bank of Portland was approved yesterday by stockholders of the Commercial Bank of Oregon and the Bank of Albany.

Final approval of the merger by supervisory authorities in Washington, D. C., would add some \$40,000,000 in deposits to the United States National's system. Stockholders of the surviving firm will note Friday afternoon on the merger proposal.

Even Exchange of Stock
The Commercial Bank of Oregon, with head offices in Hillsboro, has branches at Banks, Cloverdale, Tillamook, Wheeler, Newberg, Sherwood, St. Paul, Vernonia, West Slope and Hood River.

The merger plan will involve an even exchange of one share of U. S. National stock for each share of Commercial Bank of Oregon stock. Bank of Albany stockholders will receive eight shares of U. S. National stock for one of their own due to a difference in par and book value.

Woman Drivers Must Assume Own Blame

Arlington, Va.—(U.P.)—A judge here has ruled that even if a gallant escort offers to take the blame, a woman driver must still pay a fine if she bumps into a thing or two.

County Court Judge Paul D. Brown fined Martha T. Channault, 36, of Arlington, \$50 on a reckless driving charge, although Lonnie Pate, 26, pleaded guilty to reckless driving.

"You are trying to be gallant," Judge Brown told Pate. "I'm going to reject your plea."

Miss Channault had been at the wheel when her automobile had struck a road sign, a pole, two fences, a gate post, a chimney, and a bird bath.



SPECTACULAR SMASHUP of bus, truck and trailer, pickup truck and three automobiles leaves highway near Los Angeles tied up for hour. Fireman A. W. Johnston examines wreckage to find injured, six were hospitalized. Truck's cargo of canned corn covers highway. (International)

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Mack Sennett, the Sultan of Slapstick, today decided whom he'd hire if he had made his silent comedies in 1954—and the stars would be all from television.

The white-haired inventor of screen comedy looked over the new home medium and passed his expert stamp of approval on George Gobel, Jackie Gleason, Imogene Coca and Groucho Marx.

"There is no motion picture comedy today," shrugged Sennett. "It's all on TV."

The craft of those TV stars, he thinks, is basically similar to that of Ben Turpin, Charlie Chaplin, Harry Langdon, Chester Conklin and the other comics who tumbled fast and furiously through the famous Keystone Comedies 40 years ago.

Gobel, NBC's new TV star, has been described as a new Will Rogers. But Sennett more accurately likens him to Harry Langdon, the sad-faced "Little Man" of the silent screen.

Terrific Relaxation
"Gobel has terrific relaxation," said Sennett. "You can't do comedy without relaxation and composure."

Sennett is back in the limelight once more because the story of his life, "King of Comedy," in collaboration with Cameron Shipp, has just been published. I found the new author in his old-fashioned, white apartment house on Hollywood Blvd. and as we strolled down the shabby, busy street he revealed what he thinks of TV.

"Gleason is funny, but sometimes he has lousy scripts that are not his fault. When the script is good, he gives a great performance."

"The same for Red Skelton. Red is a great artist, but when his scripts are not good he loses that wonderful humor I always expect from such a fine performer. I am the doctor," he smiled, "and that is my honest opinion."

Sennett had a word of warning for such comics as Donald O'Connor and Gleason who have taken over writing or directing of their shows.

"They want to be the whole show and you can't do it," he lamented. "Chaplin was the only one who could. Harry Langdon was the only comedian I knew who could replace Chaplin, but when he found out how great he was he wanted to take over the whole show, and bang! We couldn't use him any more."

Needs Production
"A comedian needs production, management and stories, remember that."

Sennett himself has become quite a TV performer on many guest spots. He appeared with Art Linkletter last week and may fly to New York for the Ed Sullivan show to plug his book.

The ex-producer stood on the corner of Hollywood and Vine to gaze at the huge, modern TV studios built on the spot where directors in turned-around caps created the great art of the movie nearly 50 years ago.

"Pay-as-you-go-TV is the thing," he said. "No more small theaters—just big houses and big pictures."

The goby, a curious froglike fish of Africa, climbs trees to feed on wood ants. Often one goby will climb while others stay below to nab dislodged victims.

40 Motorists May Suffer Injuries in Oregon Tomorrow

Salem—(U.P.)—Forty persons who leave home in Oregon tomorrow as Thanksgiving celebrants may end the day in a hospital, thankful only that they are still alive, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry said today.

They will be the victims of street and highway accidents in Oregon.

Last year, 123 Thanksgiving day accidents occurred in Oregon. One person was killed and 40 were injured, some permanently.

Roads To Be Crowded
"These figures, Newbry said, 'explain why officials year after year repeat the tiresome warnings about holiday traffic.'"

State safety officials expect roads to be crowded as thousands of Oregon residents travel to distant towns to spend the holiday with relatives, while still others plan beach or mountain outings.

The biggest hazard, as usual, Newbry said, will be the thousands of holiday-bound motorists who take unnecessary chances, drive at excessive speeds, plan too long a trip and thus become tired and inattentive, and often combine alcohol and gasoline to achieve deadly results.

The famous section of the St. Lawrence River known as the Thousand Islands actually comprises nearly 1,800 islands, according to a New York State Department of Commerce guide pamphlet.

The USS Bainbridge was the Navy's first destroyer.

Wednesday, November 24, 1954

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

Chicago is the nation's largest railway center and it is the principal center for 22 trunk rail lines.

Africa, with 20 per cent of the world's area, has only about 7.5 per cent of the total world population.

The U. S. postoffice department estimated it would handle 54,000,000 mail items during the 1954 year.

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