

Retail Trade Said Feeling Consumer Pinch Over Nation

By ELMER C. WALZER
United Press Financial Editor
New York — Retail trade is reported to be feeling a consumer pinch in this country.



Standard & Poor's says that holiday business, which produces a substantial proportion of annual earnings of department stores, is expected to fall short of last year's level.

At the same time the London Financial Times reports that the tightening of the credit squeeze and the increase in the Bank of England rate have done little to damp down the boom in consumer spending in Britain.

Over here there's been an unfavorable trend in sales since August with three factors contributing — unseasonable weather, the flu epidemic and mostly rising unemployment.

Wage Increases
Over there there's been a rise in consumer buying since the last round of wage increases early in the year.

The London Times finds that the government's restrictive measures have so far had no discernible impact on the consumer buying, but it finds the boom a patchy one and says there are

some grounds for anticipating a downturn in the new year.

Standard & Poor's looks for a downturn in personal income in the first months of 1958 and anticipates there may be further reductions in consumer buying.

In addition to lighter buying, Standard notes that stores in this country are suffering from a pinch on profits. First half sales rose five per cent for department stores but earnings held about even with last year.

Standard says 1958 earnings of stores will largely be determined by economic trends later in the year, but "continued good dividend coverage appears a reasonable expectation."

International Statistical Bureau finds little evidence of real consumer fright at this time, "although the public is definitely more cautious with its budgets."

The bureau finds that retail inventories are comparatively low and in that respect the current situation is in contrast with 1953-54 when inventories were built up much faster, getting retailers into difficulty.

Vienna — The Health Committee of the Communist Czech Parliament has approved a draft permitting abortions in Czechoslovakia, it was reported today.

Prague Radio said the draft, still subject to parliamentary approval, provides that abortions "for medical and other reasons will be allowed by special committees which will examine each individual case." The draft states that the abortions must be performed in state hospitals.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A CONVIVIAL SOUL left the convention at 3:30 A. M. and was deposited on his doorstep by a considerate taxicab driver at 3:58. He had almost made it to his room when his wife's prized cuckoo clock sounded four times. The husband promptly cuckooed four more times, called out "Heigh ho, it's off to work I go!" — and hastily exited from the house.

That night his wife reported, "I've decided to get rid of that cuckoo clock. Last night it cuckooed four times, tripped over a chair, mumbled 'Nuts!' then cuckooed four times more!"

...
The late Arturo Toscanini once played host to Yehudi Menuhin. The latter was in the middle of a violin sonata when a phone in the hall began to ring. The maestro motioned to Menuhin to continue playing, picked up a pair of scissors, cut the phone wire in two, then leaned back happily once more to listen to the music.

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Leaders Get Awards At County 4-H Event

Leadership in the 4-H activities provides a great opportunity to mold young people, Dr. D. Kirkland West, First Presbyterian church of Medford, told the audience at the Jackson county 4-H leaders' banquet on Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Discussing the temptations and challenges facing today's young people, Dr. West said "young people must be able to say no to themselves and to others, knowing what they should do and what is the pleasurable thing to do."

Mrs. Don Nichols (the former

Marjory Hattan) presented the awards for leadership before an audience of 160 people.

Those receiving awards for their leadership in 4-H were: Mrs. Chester Ashton, Central Point, 26th year; A. T. Lathrop, 23rd year; Mrs. Frank Myers, 22nd year; Bill Bigham, Eagle Point, 19th year; Elbert Bigham, Eagle Point and Floyd Charley, Central Point; 14th year; George Nichols, Ashland; John Bohnert, Central Point.

Others receiving awards were Leonard Freeman and C. N. Gail, 11th year; Mrs. Ferd Jones, 10th year; Mrs. R. W. Badcock, Mrs. John Bohnert, Mrs. Richard Ditsworth, Mrs. V. W. Hay and Ed Houston, 9th year; Mrs. Lewis Clark, Francis Krouse, Ivan Skyrman, Charles Swingle, eighth year; C. H. Elmore, Mrs. Francis Krouse, E. A. Mallory, C. H. Moore, and Ed Parsons, seventh year.

Sixth year: Mrs. H. B. Chapman, Arion Christensen, Mrs. Everett Gibson, Mrs. E. A. Mallory, W. D. Monro, Mrs. Ed Parsons, Mrs. R. Rosenbaum, Mrs. Ivan Skyrman, Mrs. Allan Smith, Charles Taylor.

Fifth year: Don Nichols, Lawson Scott, Mrs. Perry Strom, Jess Terry.

Third Year Leaders
Third year: Cora Anderson, Mrs. Thurman Barnes, Mrs. A. Beman, Mrs. Clinton Charley, John Draper, Mrs. M. L. Frink, M. L. Frink, Eugene Krouse, Mrs. Rebecca Martin, Mrs. Maynard McKay, Mrs. A. R. Pinkham, Wallace Ragsdale, Cleo Small, Vic Stewart, Mrs. Donna Williams, Stan Zapell.

Second year: Mrs. H. T. Frost, Mrs. C. O. Gerhardt, Mrs. D. L. Harrison, J. Allen Harris, Russell Johnson, Mrs. Billy Kerr, Mrs. Ed Knapp, Gale Perdue, Mrs. Francis Putman, Paul Reineau, Mrs. Lawson Scott Jr., Mrs. Vic Stewart, Mrs. Russell Thompson, Mrs. Gerald Whaley, Truman Bishop, Mrs. Everett Brown, T. W. Carter, Mrs. T. W. Carter, Mrs. E. D. Daugherty, Mrs. James Edge, Mrs. Bob Fisher, Mrs. Betty Flenner, Leonard Frank, Mrs. Fred Straube, Gail Buffington, Lloyd Adamson, Mrs. John Anhorn, H. W. Barker, Mrs. Don Bradshaw, Mrs. Gale Buffington, Mrs. D. E. Burdison, Mrs. John Carnegie, Kermit Carroll, Merle Cook, Mrs. E. A. Cooper, Mrs. Paul Creel, Mrs. Marie Critten, Henry G. Davies, Mrs. H. G. Davies, Mrs. C. E. Debruck, Mrs. E. Deckard, Mrs. Paul Doe, Iris Dodge, Jo Ann Dodge, James Dunn, Mrs. Audrey Estlin, Mrs. Vivian Flett, Walter Foote, Donald Gettling, Harry Glidden, Mrs. G. E. Hackett, Mrs. I. A. Hale, Dave Hanton, Mrs. Oscar Hanson, Ralph Hixson, Earl Hvall, Mrs. C. E. Howell, Mrs. Gerald Johnson, Mrs. R. B. Johnson, Mrs. Cecil Kee, Miss Fernie Kellow, W. E. Kerr, Keith Krambeal, Ernest J. Lathrop, Mrs. Les Lusk, Mrs. Hay Martin, Mrs. R. J. Martin, Mrs. Dorna Miller, Mrs. H. B. Mitchell, Mrs. C. H. Moore, Eloise Piete, Armin Richter, Mrs. Geo. Rode, Mrs. C. W. Simmons, Mrs. Olin Sneed, Mrs. Ronald Torrey, Larry Tweedy, Mrs. K. C. Van de Kamp, Mrs. James West, W. G. Wilkins, Mrs. P. R. Williamson, Mrs. Melvin Wright, Mrs. Bruce Pingle, Mrs. Robert Cupples.

Junior leaders receiving awards were:
Fourth year: Charles Elmore, Nancy Barnes, Cathie Carroll, Dale Smith, Don Smith.

Third year: Truman Elmore, Carolyn Ties, Joan Dobrot.

Second year: Henry Scott, Sharon Coffman, Norma Ditsworth, Virginia Martin, Suzanne Palm, Charles Swingle, Nyla Cooper, Carl Skyrman.

First year: Nelda Chapman, Jo Ann Mallory, Charles Badcock, Russell Elmore, Mavis Strom, Carolee Brantley, Ken Stewart, Joyce Kerr, Craig Wright, Susan Wright, Nedra Harris, James Reneau, Jean Rowden, Philip Krouse, Jim Martin, Robert Rosenbaum, Jeanette Nougier, Jim Frink, Philip Taylor, Anna Carter, Patsy Charley, John Ramsey, Jerome Peterson, Marilyn Hixson.

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Male Chorus Planned At Southern Oregon

Ashland — A male chorus from southern Oregon is being planned by Louis Clayson, vocal instructor at Southern Oregon college.

All men who wish to sing are asked to attend the college Tuesday evening for preliminary organization for Christmas caroling. The meeting will be held in Churchill hall, room 207, at 7:45 p.m.

Clayson said no selection of singers would be made at the

Tuesday meeting as it is a preliminary step in the formation of a permanent male chorus. If there is enough community interest from Medford and Ashland singers the chorus will function on a permanent basis in the area, he added.

Clayson added that the organization would be non-profit and be on an interest basis only.

Portland — The State Racing Commission said a total of \$7,169,433 was bet at thoroughbred horse races in Oregon during 1957. The attendance for 78 days of racing was 190,000.



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