

Consumer Income Higher In First Half Of 1949 Than During 1948 Boom

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (AP)—Incomes of consumers ran 2.6 per cent higher in the first half of this year than in the same period of 1948, when the boom was in full swing.

Retail buying power thus was fattened by the flow of income to people—as distinguished from corporations—at an annual rate of \$213,400,000,000 in the first six months of this year, commerce department figures showed. That was a record high.

The stream of cash was on the increase at mid-year, too, according to revised data from the department, personal incomes rose in total from April through June after having bumped down from last December's peak annual rate of \$217,000,000,000 to a trough of \$212,400,000,000 in March. By June, the rate was back to \$213,500,000,000.

The main cause of an increase in the annual rate of personal incomes from May to June was higher farm receipts due to disposal of a larger volume of crops—either on the market or in loans from the government.

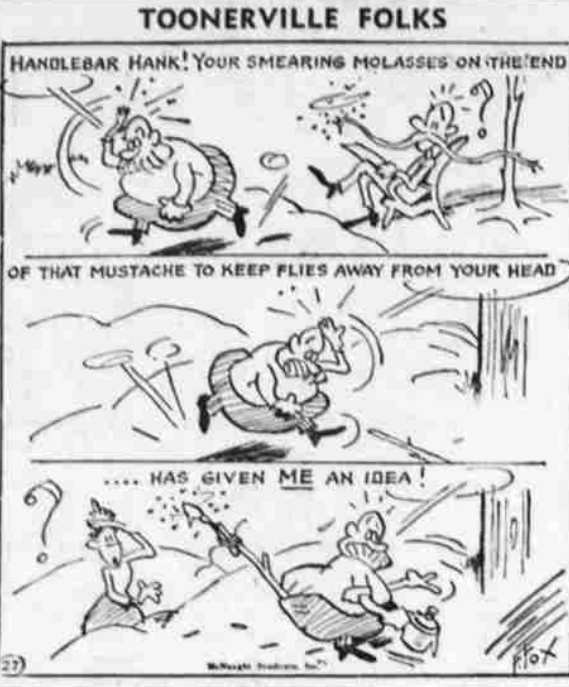
Possibly of greater significance was the first increase in factory payrolls since last September. The steady decline in that interim had resulted from worker layoffs, which in turn showed up in increased unemployment. In June, the department said, wages rose in the non-durable goods industries and "steadied" in the durable group.

Another commerce department report showed that the book value of business inventories had been cut back about \$1,000,000,000 in June—chiefly by manufacturers and retailers—to an estimated total of \$51,579,000,000.

Some economists have dubbed the business downturn this year an "inventory recession."

In still another report, the commerce department said that publicly reported cash dividends paid by corporations were 13 per cent higher in June than in the same month last year.

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Bus Smashes Into Bridge Abutment In East; Fifteen Trapped By Flames Killed

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Aug. 10 (AP)—Fifteen persons died in the flaming wreckage of a Greyhound bus that burned after smashing into a bridge abutment near here early today.

The bus, bound from Indianapolis to Bloomington, hit the bridge on a winding, hilly road shortly after midnight. Seconds later it was in flames.

The bodies removed from the bus were placed in six ambulances and a hearse and, accompanied by a police escort, were brought to the Indiana national guard armory here to await identification.

Driver Wayne Cramer of Indianapolis, one of the survivors, said a front tire may have blown out, causing him to lose control of the bus. After striking the abutment it skidded 150 feet down winding highway 37 and came to rest on its left side, blocking the emergency door.

Flames enveloped the vehicle almost immediately. The driver said he and "two or three" passengers got out the front door. The other survivors escaped through a rear window which a passenger kicked out.

Rien Van Horn, manager of radio station WTTS of Bloomington, said one of the survivors told him he walked through five feet of flames to get off the bus.

The survivor, Wells Richardson, 38, of Evansville, Ind., told Van Horn he was doting when the bus struck the bridge abutment.

Van Horn said Edgar Davis of Indianapolis, a Negro, was credited by other survivors with kicking out a rear window, through which most of the survivors escaped. Davis suffered a back injury and was brought to the Bloomington hospital.

Billy Ellerbrook of Evansville, another survivor, said he was riding right behind the driver when the accident occurred. He said his impression was that the bus hit a bump in the road and went out of control.

"I'm afraid my mother and father are still in the wreck," Ellerbrook said.

Bloomington, seat of Indiana university, is about 60 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

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