

Signs Point to Happy New Year for Consumers; More Money, Cheaper Food, Easier Credit Seen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 (AP)—There were some signs today of a happy New Year ahead for consumers — with money more plentiful, a drop expected in pork and egg prices, and the easiest installment terms since the war.

The good news for those who like ham and eggs came yesterday from the department of agriculture. It reported prospects of a record-breaking peacetime pork supply in 1950, along with a possible eight to ten-cent-a-dozen drop in the cost of eggs.

Easier Buying

The federal reserve board followed that up today with a report that: 1. "The tendency seems to be toward progressively easier terms for all borrowers" who are buying goods on the installment plan.

2. It expects an expanding money supply next year. This includes bank deposits (both checking and saving) and currency in circulation. It will be swelled by large public outlays by federal, state and local governments — made with the use of bank loans since tax income does not cover the cost.

It is probable that consumers will continue to pay the same rate of income taxes and also the cost of steel products and coal is expected to rise. However, these increases

may be offset in part by the mounting congressional drive for a cut in the taxes levied on so-called "luxury items."

That would bring somewhat lower telephone bills, cheaper transportation, and a saving on such other things as electric light bulbs, cosmetics, leather goods and jewelry.

Easier Credit

The reserve board said in its monthly bulletin that installment terms already have eased considerably since government credit controls ended last June 30 — most notably in the cases of new automobiles and refrigerators.

The one thing which would keep the supply of money from expanding, the board study commented, would be a "marked decline in over-all credit demands of business, farmers, real estate owners and consumers."

The money supply, it noted, fell off in 1949 for the third year in a row. "The total amount of currency outside banks at the end of November," the board said, "was \$800,000,000 less than a year earlier and \$1,500,000,000 below November, 1948."

Plenty of Pork

Like money, pigs were expected to be plentiful in 1950. The agriculture department said the fall crop

this year is 10 per cent higher than last year's, while next spring's crop is due to be six per cent bigger than in the spring of 1949.

Those two crops will make up the bulk of the 1950 pork supply, and the increase probably will be reflected in lower prices paid by the consumer.

In a second announcement, the department said it will support egg prices at a level intended to assure farmers across the nation of an average income of 37 cents a dozen — compared with 45 cents this year.

That policy, officials predicted, will mean a drop of eight to ten cents a dozen in the average cost to consumers. While a sharp cut in production could prevent that price drop, officials said, 1950 egg output is expected to exceed the 1949 figure by two or three per cent.

Steel Hikes

In the steel picture, the \$4-per-ton boost recently announced by U. S. Steel corporation, was spreading quickly throughout the industry, which was expected to pass it on to steel users and thence to the consumer.

The National Steel corporation said yesterday it was following U. S. Steel's lead. Great Lakes Steel corporation had made a similar announcement earlier.

Steel men said one reason for the boost was the strike-ending pension and insurance plan negotiated by Philip Murray's CIO steelworkers.

Labor also was involved in the possibility of a boost in coal prices. John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers have been without a contract in major coal fields since June 30. A lengthy strike was followed by a truce under which the miners are working an abbreviated work week.

Mine owners have said that any worker benefits which raise the cost of digging coal will mean a rise in the retail price.

HIGH SCHOOL News and Comments

By Flo Ann Perkins



Girls' League, composed of every girl in high school, met today for its first all-club meeting of the year to hear Mrs. Victor O'Neill tell a Christmas story as she does every year for a meeting of the club.

Catherine Blanas sang some Christmas music during the assembly and then led the whole group in Christmas carols. This year's Girls' League president, Jean Mahan, introduced the officers elected last spring to the girls and presented Christmas gifts to the advisers of the smaller member clubs of Girls' League.

With three performances of the Christmas production, "Toyland Fantasy" with music from the "Nutcracker Suite" and others over with the orchestra, a capella choir, dancers, stage crew and all the rest connected with the show have just one more performance to put on tonight. The students at KUHS saw the show yesterday and last night two shows, one for grade school students and the other for the public, were presented.

Retail Selling club members started selling student directories with names, addresses and phone numbers of all students in KUHS yesterday during the noon hour and continued today. The booklets which the club compiled are printed in red on white and are selling for 15 cents each.

Script and Mike is planning its talent show already, although the show won't be presented until the middle of February. Members of the club are hunting any available talent among KUHS students and it's planned that the best on this show will be put on the annual Pelicans spring broadcast.

Room 308 in addition to its huge Santa Claus head on one wall and white folded crepe paper bells with gold Christmas tree balls has added a chimney set up in the front of the room with Santa about ready to descend in it. There are also wreaths around the walls with Santa faces in them and frosted windows on the door and windows. Room 315 has set up a very large tree with lights and decorations in addition to crepe paper

Doctors Scan Girl's Hand; Amputation?

BOSTON, Dec. 22 (AP)—A board of Children's hospital physicians may decide today whether the right hand of courageous 10-year-old Betty Lou Marbury can be saved.

The Brownsville, Tenn., girl arrived here yesterday convinced that the prayers of the nation for her recovery will be answered.

Betty Lou has an appointment with physicians at the famed hospital today. They are experts in the field of tumor therapy.

They hope to determine whether Southern doctors consulted in the child's case are right or wrong in their opinion that she has a tumor and that amputation of her hand is imperative.

Aid

Her plane trip to Boston was financed by a wealthy New Yorker, who, like millions of others, heard of the girl's plight after she wrote to a Memphis newspaper asking the public to pray for her.

"My doctor says he fears that he will have to amputate my hand," she wrote. "I want those who read this letter, if it is published, to pray that I may completely recover. I believe the Lord will answer their prayers."

Betty's plea was carried to all parts of the nation by the wire services.

Christmas Present

The New Yorker, who asked that his name be withheld, decided to finance Betty and her father in a flight to Boston as "the best possible Christmas present to her."

The modest Marbury farm house was swamped with some 7000 letters from every state and from as far away as France.

Betty appeared happy when she arrived at Logan International Airport after what was described as "a fairly rough trip." She was accompanied by her father, Clay Marbury, a carpenter-farmer.

streamers, pine boughs, frosted windows and scenes displayed about the room.

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