

Price Hike Cuts U.S. Beef Sales

CHICAGO, (AP)—The hike in beef prices has turned the eyes of many housewives to pork, poultry and fish.

That was brought out today in an Associated Press survey of major cities across the nation.

The survey also raised the question of whether the long climb in general prices had left consumers with a lowered resistance.

QUIET

The survey indicated there was little complaining in the first few days of trade under the new beef ceilings.

Butchers in Washington, D.C., for instance, reported very little grumbling and few comments of any kind from customers. One meat cutter there philosophized:

"High prices undoubtedly have had a numbing effect."

One of the biggest chains in New York City noted increased price resistance only in the poorer neighborhoods.

"When people want beef they will pay the price until it gets too high, and then they will sacrifice on other grocery items to buy beef," said an Indianapolis butcher.

Supplies of beef in retail outlets in the 12 large cities that were checked ranged from scarce to ample.

But there is plenty of other main-dish food on hand. The decline in the supply of beef coincides with the start of the fall season of plenty in pork.

Washington, D.C., reported a heavy run on poultry, fish and pork.

There were similar trends in some other communities.

PORK DIET

A woman buying for a family of five in Seattle, Wash., scanned the price lists and said:

"Little by little we are being driven to a pork diet."

A meat market operator in an exclusive residential area of Denver summed up consumer reaction this way:

"Most women don't know the prices they used to pay for meat in comparison with what they're paying now. But they have been reading in the newspapers and hearing on the radio that beef prices are high."

"So they are trying to buy less beef. We never have sold as much pork, poultry and fish as we are now."

NEWSPRINT SHORTAGE

WASHINGTON, (AP)—A special house committee reported Wednesday that the newsprint situation, "beyond the immediate future, will require most careful watching and planning." The committee, headed by Rep. Beckworth (D-Tex.), has been making a study of the newsprint shortage. It said it saw no immediate hope that newspapers "will be able soon to get all the newsprint which they may want."

HST Blames Publishers for Using Info Handed Out by Administration

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Pres. Truman left most of the Washington press corps puzzled today by blaming "newspapers and slick magazines" for what he said was disclosure of 95 percent of the government's secrets.

Reporters had what looked on the surface like conflicting explanations for a recent presidential order extending throughout the government the same tight security regulations which have governed the defense and state departments in handling information of potential value to an enemy.

At his news conference yesterday, the president said he signed the order after a Yale university survey, made for the central intelligence agency, disclosed that "newspapers and slick magazines" had published 95 percent of the government's secrets and this was what he wanted to stop.

The president, in speaking of disclosure of secrets, cited magazine publications of maps showing the location of atomic energy plants and publication by newspapers all over the country of pictures of major cities with arrows pointing to key plants.

Reporters protested that the civilian defense agency had given out the matter on the big cities and that newspapers cooperated to alert the public to civilian dangers.

He didn't care who gave it out, the president said, the publishers had no business using it if they had the welfare of the country at heart. He said it was furnishing information to the Russians.

Later, Short said Truman had directed him to "clarify" the president's views. Short declared:

"Citizens who receive military information from sources not having the necessary responsibilities and qualifications to evaluate such information should, as loyal Americans, exercise the most careful judgment in determining the safety of publishing such information."

Short's statement did not explain how to differentiate between officials qualified to give out such information and those not qualified.

Before this statement was issued, reporters had asked Truman if he thought primary responsibility for withholding military information rested with the publishers even if cleared by the defense department.

There is no question about that, the president said.

He stood his ground when another reporter recalled that the Pentagon gave out information about the new plotless bomber plane. Did he think it was the publisher's responsibility not to publish that?

Truman replied he thought the publishers ought to think of the country's welfare the same as he did. He said he didn't think this should have been given out.

Short wound up the day with a 90-minute conference with information officers of agencies effected by the order.

He said the information officers are fully aware the order is "not to be used for any purpose other than to protect the real secrets of the United States."

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HELICOPTER SQUADRON

KEY WEST, Fla., (AP)—A helicopter squadron, the first in the U.S. navy, was commissioned here yesterday.

Commander Joseph T. Watson Jr., will head the squadron, which will have 56 officers and 187 enlisted personnel. The navy said no detailed information could be given out on the functions of the new unit.

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