

Congressional Report Approves Controls

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Senate Finance committee said Monday price controls had been a "major factor" in stopping "hectic price rises" after the outbreak of war in Korea.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production, in a report surveying price trends of the past two and one-half years, credited government action with a major role in halting "rampant" inflation.

It cited evidence, however, to show inflation still was a serious problem to the nation's consumers.

The report was approved last week at a session of the joint committee, headed by Senator Maybank (D-N.C.).

The report was completed Oct. 22, before the national election, but a committee staff member said its release was held up because some said they could not study it adequately during the campaign.

Price curbs are among the controls expiring next April 30. One of the first tasks of the incoming Republican administration will be to decide whether to keep or junk these controls.

The report said the nation has yet to feel the full impact of the post-Korean military buildup.

Before Korea, it said, about 9 per cent of the total national product was going into defense. It now is more than 15 per cent and is expected to reach nearly 20 per cent.

"This in itself could create additional pressures," the report said, "but is not expected to become too serious."

The committee said American consumers now are paying "billions of additional dollars annually" because of the delay in imposing price controls after the Korean war began June, 1950. The curbs went into effect on Jan. 26, 1951, seven months later.

The report pointed out that spot market, wholesale and consumers price indices now are about 10 per cent above the level of June, 1950.

Inflation is continuing to take a

of moderate income families, the report said.

In the past year, it said, the food, rent and miscellaneous items in the price index have advanced almost 6 per cent, or much more than the index as a whole in the 12-month period.

Yet these three items comprise about two-thirds of all purchases by moderate income consumers, the report said.

The committee said that higher food costs of the past year are almost entirely the result of increased marketing charges, and added:

"The 6 per cent increase in retail costs of the market basket over the past year has been due almost entirely to the higher marketing costs, as farm prices remained fairly constant during this time."

Ike Confers With U.N. Officials

BY FELMAN MORIN

NEW YORK (AP)—President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower visited the United Nations Monday and conferred privately with U. N. officials, presumably about proposals to end the Korean fighting.

He went to the private office of Trygve Lie, U. N. secretary general, and stayed about 20 minutes.

Lester Pearson, of Canada, president of the general assembly, also was present.

Leaving the UN building after an hour's visit, Eisenhower thanked Lie and Pearson, and said:

"It was inspiring to be here. This is a work devoted to a good cause. We are all working for the freedom and the security of the future."

In the Security Council chambers, Eisenhower stepped up to a microphone and made a brief statement. He said:

"This building and the people in it and their work are the symbol of the free world's hope for peace. Every true citizen of the free world follows what you have done here with interest."

The President-elect's appearance brought hundreds of people into the corridors, and Eisenhower was applauded as he walked through the various rooms.

John Foster Dulles, designated by Eisenhower as the next secretary of state; Byron Price, assistant of Lie, and S. Lal, of the Indian delegation, accompanied the general on his tour of the building.

In the main assembly hall, Eisenhower shook hands with Dr. Ralph Bunche, director of the United Nations Trusteeship Foundation.

He asked Bunche:

"Who are you working for, the United States or the U. N.?"

"I'm with the U. N.," Bunche replied.

"How in hell can the United States afford not to have you working for us?" Eisenhower asked, smiling.

Bunche's reply was lost in the commotion of photographers and spectators surrounding the general.

No announcement was made as to the subject of discussion in Lie's private office.

However, the debate on the formula offered by India for bringing an armistice in Korea is scheduled to open this afternoon.

Eisenhower has told Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.), of the American U. N. delegation, that he supports the United States position opposing any forcible repatriation of Korean prisoners.

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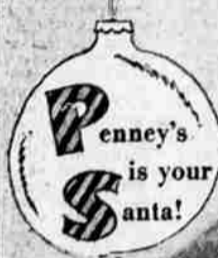
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