

Type Cost-of-Living Due Next Week

LAND EVANS JR. (AP)—A brand new index, computed after a three-year price survey across the nation, will appear next week, commissioner of the Bureau of Economic Warfare, says. The new index will be the "most complete" in the past 20 years. The "cost-of-living" index is more than a monthly measure of the change in prices of goods and services. It is a composite index of prices of goods and services of moderate income families in big and small cities. Together, BLS calls them, the "market basket" and their change will become part of the index. The cost-of-living index is computed from prices of 225 items, measured by sampling in 34 cities, all of which are expanding the number of items to 300 by adding TV sets, frozen foods and others. BLS will take price samples from now on in 46 cities, ranging in size from New York to towns of 2,500.

BLS sent pricing specialists into the homes of typical families in all these cities to get a complete record of the kinds, quantities and amounts of foods, clothing, furniture and all other goods and services bought in 1950, and how much was spent for each item.

BREAKDOWN

Results of this survey showed that: The average family spent 30.1 per cent of its total expenditures for food; 23 per cent for housing; 8.7 per cent for clothes; 11 per cent for transportation; 4.7 per cent for medical care; 3.1 per cent for personal care (such as toilet articles); 5.4 per cent on reading and recreation (which includes TV); and 5 per cent for "other goods and services"—tobacco and alcoholic beverages, legal services, burial expenses and others.

Comparing this modern market basket with the one in use up to now shows interesting contrasts. For example: the old cost-of-living index gave a weight of 25.4 per cent to housing, nearly two points more than housing's new value in the market basket.

The new index will use average prices in the period 1947-1949 as a base of 100. The base is arbitrary—it could be any period at all. In fact, Clague has announced that he will see the new index also on a 1935-1939 base for at least the next 12 months, so that easy comparisons can be made between the new and old index.

The old index was tied to the 1925-1929 base.

MEANING

The 1947-1949 base means that: If the new index out next week, which will measure the change in the price level from Dec. 1-Jan. 15, shows that prices on Jan. 15 were exactly the same as the average in 1947-1949, the Jan. 15 index would come out exactly 100. This won't happen, because prices are now about 14 per cent higher than the 1947-1949 average. So the new index due next week will probably be somewhere around 114—114 per cent of the 1947-1949 base.

BLS has announced six separate times, starting in late 1950, that its old index would be discontinued at the end of 1952. More than three million workers are covered by contracts which tie their wages to the old index. Some of these contracts have already been rewritten to fit the new index, but many more have not.

This led to requests from both industry and many labor unions that the old index be continued a few months to allow more time for rewriting contracts to fit the new index. President Eisenhower bowed to these requests and the old index will be continued until the end of June.



TRAIN-BUS CRASH KILLS SIX — Six persons were killed and 12 injured, six seriously, when the Niland-Calexico Southern Pacific train crashed into a bus loaded with Mexican Nationals at a crossing at Brawley, Calif. All those killed were government contract workers.

Military Cut May Be Eyed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chairman Short (R-Mo) said Friday the House Armed Services Committee may consider a recommendation to cut military manpower and expenses by 10 per cent.

The recommendation was made by a special commission, appointed last October, to study military manpower under David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of the Radio Corporation of America.

The Sarnoff group, set up by the Truman administration last fall under Senate urging for such a study, submitted its report and disbanded on Wednesday. Sarnoff complained it had not had adequate co-operation from the Pentagon.

A successor with somewhat different powers was named Thursday by Secretary of Defense Wilson. Its chairman is Nelson A. Rockefeller. Sarnoff is a member, as are Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, president of the Pennsylvania State College and a brother of President Eisenhower; Robert A. Lovett, Wilson's predecessor as secretary of defense; Dr. Vagnor Bush, Carnegie Institution president; Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; and Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, president of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Television Aids Thief

LONDON (AP)—Scotland Yard detectives plotted ways Friday of getting their hands on a new type of criminal—a burglar who synchronizes his operations with television programs.

Police said that in the last three weeks he has stolen jewelry and furs worth more than \$94,000 from homes in nearby Surrey.

The burglar enters a house while a popular television program is running. Working quickly, he makes his getaway before the program is finished.

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Decides Sane

GRANVILLE (Douglas County)—A Chief Joseph center, who testified he backed his wife and four children last summer because he was told to do it, was found sane by a jury.

The jury, ending a two-day trial, found Mait Swanson, 27, sane and his family members sane at Bridgeport. Replying to questions, Swanson said he was now sane. The prosecutor nor the defense delayed sentencing until after hearing a new trial.

Swanson, taking the stand, maintained he was sane and sane. He did not want to be detained.

Sheriff was stationed nearby during the trial. He apparently showed intention.

Ally, Curt Clark said he was sane. A slip of paper was written: "Don't worry. God has complete control over proceedings." Swanson immediately relaxed.

Swanson's wife and four small children from six months to four years were shot to death by 77 and their throats cut. Officers said they shouldn't suffer. "God told me to do it," Swanson said. He inflicted knife wounds on himself but refused to be hanged.

New Boeing Tops British

PORTLAND (AP)—The Boeing Airplane Co. plant at Seattle has under construction a jet transport designed for commercial use that will outstrip anything that the British can produce for some time.

That was the report of Robert H. Harlan, a Boeing engineer, to the Oregon Society of Automotive Engineers here Thursday night.

Despite appearances to the contrary, the United States is ahead of Great Britain in jet transport development, he said.

Harlan said the British Comet jet transport now operating on scheduled flights from London to Johannesburg is designed to carry 30 passengers a maximum of 1,500 miles. Another Comet, designed to carry 68 to 71 passengers will not be in production before 1956.

"That plane will not be competitive with the jet transport prototype 'now under construction at the Boeing plant," he said. Boeing's plane is scheduled to fly by August, 1954.

He disclosed no details on the plane, but said: "This plane will open a new era in air line transportation. There will be virtually no noise and no vibration. Cabin conditioning will hold the air pressure constant so the passenger will never feel any change in his ears. He will have the sensation of speed."

Harlan said such a plane could not be in commercial use before 1957 or 1958.

Morse Safe Until '56

"There is nothing we can do about Independent Sen. Wayne Morse until 1956," Mrs. Olive Cornett, Klamath resident and Republican national committeewoman from Oregon, told members of the Klamath Kiwanis Club yesterday.

She said it was too bad he had to spoil an otherwise perfect inaugural for "no reason whatsoever" and refuse to allow the cabinet to be sworn in after the ceremonies. She spoke at the Washington scene during the return of the Republicans to power.

Mrs. R. R. Macartney, another Klamathite who visited Washington for the inauguration, reported the most significant of all features of the vast festival of show, noise and excitement was the place the American Negro had in the ceremonies.

Where famed Negro artist Marian Anderson was turned out of Constitution Hall a few years ago because of her race, another colored singer opened the inaugural with the national anthem.

Lionel Hampton and his colored band held a prize spot in an arena celebration the night before.

Monte Montana, Hollywood trick riding cowboy, looped a lariat around Pres. Eisenhower during the inaugural parade. Mrs. Macartney said. The president laughed, but FBI men were uncomfortable.

"Where else in the world could a president of a country be honored by a member of a parade—and live?" she asked.

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Tough Guy, 2 Others Sought

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation had joined the chase Friday as officers pressed the hunt for two tough-guy Floyd Hill and two other jailbreakers.

Meanwhile, seven of the ten prisoners who slugged their way out of the Tarrant County jail late Wednesday night were back behind bars.

The FBI joined the hunt for Hill because his parole from Alcatraz prison was revoked when he was jailed in the robbery of \$248,000 from two Cubans.

TRUMAN COMING

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Former President Harry Truman said Friday he was "contemplating a trip to the Pacific" in the near future.

Water Well Costly

GRANVILLE, Ill. (AP)—A Putnam man says he's spending \$100 to drill a water well on his farm, making it one of the most expensive wells on an Illinois farm.

Martman hired a drilling team to drill the well on his property with sand. The team drilled 2,700 feet to strike a vein of sand rock.

The well, now nearing completion, required 500 bags of cement to make concrete to surround the pipes. In addition, millions of water were hauled from Granville to the site to make the concrete. There are 200 feet of 10-inch pipe and 2,000 feet of eight-inch pipe.

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