

to try to explain them we would have to have a very much larger staff. In the second place we would be duplicating work which is being done in other departments, so that we are not in a position to give explanations as to why these indexes have moved up.

Q. The explanation is what we want. I think we will have to get it somewhere else.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. To what department are you referring?—A. I think the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has a lot of information on that. There are other departments where a lot is known about specific commodities.

Q. It is just for the guidance of the committee. I was wondering if there was anything you had in mind apart from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board as a source of information.—A. We have, of course, in the Bureau here and there a certain amount of information which may be of service to the committee, but I do not think we could undertake the task of trying to explain a lot of these things. It should be done through other departments. We will help all we can.

The CHAIRMAN: We will note that, Mr. MacInnis, and I am sure you will note it yourself. We will get that information.

The WITNESS: In that same section 4 I might draw your attention to page 30.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What do you mean by section 4 . . . oh, of contents.—A. Table 7 (a) gives you in more detail. . . .

*By Mr. McCubbin:*

Q. Where are we?—A. Page 30.

Q. We are jumping fast.

Mr. FLEMING: The rest of it is for home work.

*By Mr. Merritt:*

Q. I should like to ask one question. I noticed in the whole of section 4 you take a base of 100 at December, 1945. These figures will not be comparable with your other charts?—A. No, it is a special table that was compiled so you would be able to see the rise that has taken place since December, 1945.

Q. Section 4 has to be considered entirely separately and not referred to the other sections in this memorandum?—A. Yes. It is on a different base. Page 30 gives you in more detail than I mentioned in my introductory brief the details of the influence of the various sub-groups in the cost of living index on the total rise since December, 1945. You see the total rise is 28·2 points, that foods alone accounted for 14·9 points, and so on. The details are all here.

*By Mr. McCubbin:*

Q. I want to ask a question. I do not want to throw a discordant note in here, but these figures, decimals and so on, do not mean much to me. What I want is prices. How are we going to get these things down into prices?—A. You will find in the tables on pages 2 and 4 you have some prices.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Wholesale prices?—A. Wholesale prices on page 2, and then on the next page—