

Then, as to the price of bread: in Washington, for a 24-ounce loaf of white bread, sliced, the price was 19 to 21 cents. To buy it from the same firm—the A & P store—here in Ottawa, the 24-ounce loaf was 15 cents.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** But the farmers get higher prices down there.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I am comparing actual prices at the present time to see whether or not, all things considered, it is proper to say that we have here in Canada a greater degree of inflation than they have in the United States. I am not trying to defend the government; I am not trying to make an argument; I am just stating to the House of Commons such facts as we have been able to ascertain, and upon which we have to base conclusions.

**An hon. Member:** What about cigarettes?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Well, here I get the indication that while in 1939 it took half an hour's work, at prevailing wage rates, to buy a package of twenty cigarettes, at the present time it takes only twenty minutes' work.

I have dealt with bread; let us now turn to butter. Creamery butter in Washington is quoted at 78 cents, while the price in the A & P store in Ottawa is 68 cents. For eggs, grade A large, the Washington price is 83 cents, and for the same grade in Ottawa, 84 cents. Turning to cheese, the price for American cheddar mild is 55, medium 59 and sharp 63, whereas Canadian cheddar cheese is 49. Maine or Long Island potatoes are 10 pounds for 39 cents, and the Ottawa price for Ontario potatoes is 35 cents for 10 pounds. I am sure a good many would feel that Ontario potatoes are just as good as Maine or Long Island potatoes. I know I got some from northern Ontario, from a friend of mine who was kind enough to send a bag to 24 Sussex street, and they are as nice potatoes as I have ever seen anywhere in the world. Taking canned salmon, pink, at Washington for one pound net the price is 65 cents per can, and at the A & P store in Ottawa a one-pound can of pink salmon is 45 cents. Eight-ounce packages of Kellogg's corn flakes, the same corn flakes in both countries, are two packages for 29 cents in Washington, 14½ cents each, and in Ottawa 14 cents a package. Chase and Sanborn coffee is 94 cents in Washington and 92 and 94 in Ottawa.

**Mr. Coldwell:** How much?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** 92 and 94.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Not Chase and Sanborn.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Chase and Sanborn coffee at the A & P branch.

**Mr. Coldwell:** It is \$1.08.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I did not make up the list. I was supplied with it.

*The Address—Mr. St. Laurent*

**Mr. Knowles:** It is over \$1 in the west.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Perhaps my hon. friend will drink more while he is here and pays 94 cents for it. Taking orange pekoe tea, the Washington price is 66 cents per half pound, and at the A & P store, Ottawa, tea is 89 cents per pound.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Is the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) comparing the same things when he compares tea and orange pekoe tea?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It is orange pekoe in both instances, and the price in Ottawa is 89 cents. These were the prices on the 12th October at the A & P supermarket store in Ottawa. As to sugar, our price is a little higher for granulated sugar. Five pounds of granulated sugar cost 50 cents in Washington, and granulated sugar, white, is 11·2 cents per pound in Ottawa instead of 10. However, brown sugar, in packages only, is 13 cents a pound in Washington, and at the A & P store in Ottawa it is 12 cents per pound.

**Mr. Green:** What about horse meat?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I have not priced horse meat. I have not yet become interested in horse meat.

These are actual facts, which have their importance in determining whether or not we should expect to do better than has been done in the United States with respect to such controls. I have a clipping from the *Montreal Gazette* of October 3 in which it is pointed out that these ceilings are such that they are bringing about a reduction in supplies. The editorial continues as follows:

The result is that with an all-time record number of cattle on United States ranges, the volume of slaughtering has shrunk by 10 per cent below this time last year. Cattlemen are holding out for the high prices they can obtain from "black market packers" who resell to hotels, restaurants, night clubs and others willing to pay above-ceiling prices for under-the-counter supplies. Packers have refused to bid on large scale orders which the United States army sought to place to supply meat rations for soldiers both at home and overseas.

**Mr. Brooks:** Might I ask the Prime Minister what is the date of that article?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** October 3, 1951. The editorial is entitled "Price control with a catch in it", and is to be found in the *Montreal Gazette* of that date. The hon. member may have some misgivings about the correct appreciation of the facts by this writer in the *Montreal Gazette*. I would not blame him because I frequently have misgivings about some of their appraisals of other subjects; nevertheless it demonstrates that there are serious difficulties involved. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) has said in this house that he was not advocating the overall ceilings that were administered during