

oilseeds, research and marketing specialists, who will meet importers, members of trade associations and government officials in Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom, where they will also visit oil extraction plants.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index remained unchanged at 129.0 between June and July 1961. Seasonally higher prices within the food component and a slight increase in the health and personal care component were offset by declines in the clothing transportation, and recreation and reading components. The housing and tobacco and alcohol indexes remained unchanged over the period.

The food index increased 1.1 per cent to 124.9 from 123.5, due primarily to seasonally higher prices for most fresh vegetables and eggs. Increased prices for some meat items and coffee were also recorded. The increases were partially offset by lower prices for variety of fresh fruit items, particularly oranges, grapes and strawberries.

The housing component remained unchanged at 132.9 over the period. A slight increase in the shelter index was balanced by a similar decline in the household operation index. Both the rent and homeownership sub-groups advanced slightly due to increased repair prices, and, in the latter sub-group, prices were higher for new houses. Within household operation, the home furnishings index declined as a

result of lower prices for most appliances and furniture items, carpets and cotton sheets. Prices of dishes and glassware increased, however. The household supplies and services index advanced slightly, with higher prices for toilet paper, floor wax and household help.

CLOTHING

The clothing index moved down 0.3 per cent from 112.5 to 112.2, as slightly lower prices were recorded for men's wear and more significant declines occurred in women's wear and piece goods. The decrease was primarily due to sale prices for men's suits, women's street dresses and spring coats, and dress material.

A decline of 1.8 per cent occurred in the transportation index, which moved to 138.7 from 141.2, as a result of reductions in automobile prices. The removal of the excise tax on passenger cars combined with normal seasonal price declines appreciably lowered the index for automobile purchase. The price of gasoline advanced slightly over the period.

The health and personal care index moved up fractionally from 155.0 to 155.1, an increase of 0.1 per cent. The health care component was unchanged over the period, while the index of personal care supplies increased 0.2 per cent.

The recreation and reading index declined 0.5 per cent to 145.0 from 145.8. The decrease was due to the recreation component, in which prices of television sets and radios declined seasonally. The tobacco and alcohol index remained unchanged at 115.8.