

I do not speak as an authority on the relative importance of these various causes. I do not think I should like to say anything more than I said there.

Mr. WINTERS: So far as you are concerned, they show up in the higher prices. You select the statistical data on them.

The WITNESS: All we do is measure the final result of those influences and, perhaps, other influences which do affect prices.

By Mr. Fleming:

Q. Perhaps you can assist us if the information is just at your hand; could you measure each of those factors? For instance, I do not know how the chairman is going to define the word "recent" in our terms of reference but, subject to whatever definition he proposes, could you tell us what, for instance, has been the rise in wage costs within the last six months; how certain commodities have come into scarcer supply in that period; how the national income has varied in that period; how purchasing power has varied; what has been the influence of external prices in that period and what has been the variation in profit margins in that period?—A. No, I could not do that.

Q. Have you any statistics on that?—A. In this book we have given you some tables. For example, there is a table here on average earnings. We could give you that. Then, also, there is a table in here which gives the increase in wage rates; that is a table compiled by the Department of Labour. We have certain information of that kind, yes, but I could not begin to tell you what the influence of the higher prices in the United States has been on our index here.

Q. No, I think Mr. Marshall has read more into my question than I intended.* Forgetting about the relation of these factors to one another or to the main problem with which we have to deal, can you tell me, concerning each of the factors you have mentioned in this significant sentence, what has been the variation upwards or downwards in a period of, say, six months? I do not know how the chairman is going to define the word "recent", but I am just taking that period of six months out of the air for the moment. Could you do that?—A. No, I could give you the results in the index number of the influence of all those factors and more factors.

Q. What I should like to get is a short statement from you instead of plowing through this very voluminous exhibit you filed this morning, of the variation by points in each of these different factors in that period?—A. I could not do that by factors. I have given you in these tables the influence of all those factors combined. They are reflected in the cost-of-living index numbers or the wholesale prices index number.

Q. Could you pick them out?—A. They are in the table.

Q. I am not asking for the influence, I am just asking for the percentage in each case?—A. In each case, do you mean?

Q. In the case of these causes that you mentioned in this sentence?—A. Yes.

Mr. MAYBANK: I think it is in the table already. One of these causes is suggested to be higher wage costs. Now, as I understand it, Mr. Fleming does not say, "Please tell us the extent to which higher wage costs have affected this index", but "Please tell us how wages have risen over a period"? I think that is in the table already.

The WITNESS: It is in the book already.

By Mr. Maybank:

Q. Is that not a correct statement to make also in respect to the scarcity of certain commodities in relation to demand and the high national income and therefore higher purchasing power? The national income is in the book?—A. Yes.