

AFTERNOON SESSION

The committee resumed at 4 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee will come to order.

Mr. H. Marshall recalled.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions which members of the committee wish to submit to Mr. Marshall?

By Mr. Irvine:

Q. I should like to ask Mr. Marshall a question, Mr. Chairman. I think he said that there were approximately 14,000 families examined to form the basis of the price index in respect to food; is that approximately right, 14,000?—A. Yes, 14,039.

Q. And in that way you discovered that the average expenditure by each family was about \$1,450 a year; is that right?—A. That is right.

Q. My question is whether any information is obtained as to whether that \$1,450 a year was sufficient to purchase a really adequate status of living for these families?

The CHAIRMAN: I gave a long lecture this morning, and I am not going to start restricting you, but I do think we ought to get down as quickly as we can to the immediate terms of reference before us. I am not going to stop you, Mr. Irvine, because I think the committee should be allowed every latitude; but I just do caution you, if I may put it that way, as to the desirability of our sticking pretty closely to the issue.

Mr. IRVINE: I would imagine that would come pretty near to the main issue eventually.

Mr. LESAGE: May I answer that by saying that with an income of \$1,500 a man should have a car.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think, Mr. Lesage, that I could allow you to answer something which I think the witness should not be asked.

Mr. LESAGE: All right, Mr. Chairman; we will consider that off the record.

By Mr. Mayhew:

Q. Are there any items in the one hundred and fifty which go to make up the cost-of-living index which have not risen since 1939?—A. Yes, I believe there are.

Q. Have you any idea how many?—A. Well, there are not very many.

Q. But some have not risen at all?—A. Yes, there are some which have not risen at all.

Q. Then others must have risen quite an amount in order to make that increase. What items would they be? In the food items what is the one item of greatest increase?—A. On page 31 you have a table there in which the individual items in the cost of living are shown and you will see the rise in the index for each one of these items. Here you have beef, rib roast, 174·3.

Mr. WINTERS: Where do you get that?

The WITNESS: Page 31, the second to the last column.