

The Address—Mr. Harkness

living. I think the trouble is that he did not carry them nearly far enough. As has been already indicated by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low), Washington and New York are, I believe, the two highest priced centres in the United States. Apart from anything else, the prices taken in one store in Washington do not give any sort of indication of what prices are across the country. There is an old saying that one swallow does not make a summer.

The Prime Minister's experience was directly contrary to my own and to that of every person with whom I have talked who has been travelling through the United States in recent months. The unanimous opinion I have received from them is that prices there are lower on practically all goods. Milk is one exception. But the Prime Minister, as has already been indicated, mentioned only food. However, if you go into the field of electrical appliances of all sorts, kitchen appliances of all kinds—refrigerators, stoves and so on—or if you go into the field of clothing, you will find that prices in the United States are very much lower than they are here. I have not a list of these prices, but I think everyone's experience will bear out that statement; and it is easy to corroborate it by securing a few United States papers and looking at the advertisements in them.

However, when we come to food, upon which the Prime Minister made his case, as far as I could see—and an extraordinarily poor case it was, I thought—after he had finished speaking I went into the library and obtained the advertisements of a food store from two issues of the *Detroit Free Press*. This issue is for October 8, and here are the prices which are advertised there. The Prime Minister took coffee as an example and there was quite a bit of talk about coffee. He established that coffee—their own chain store brand—was being sold by A & P at 96 cents in Ottawa. In this same paper the A & P stores were advertising their own brand of coffee at 77 cents a pound, a difference of 19 cents a pound for that one particular brand. Here is the advertisement of another of these supermarkets; Big Bear Markets, it is called. They advertise coffee for 75 cents a pound. It is packed in a vacuum can, not one of these paper ones. That brand is White House coffee. Then we find that Blue Bonnet margarine is advertised at 27 cents a pound. I have not before me what the price is here, but I know that it is over 40 cents a pound.

An hon. Member: Forty-four cents.

Mr. Harkness: My hon. friend says that it is 44 cents a pound. That is just getting on [Mr. Harkness.]

toward twice the price for which it is advertised in the United States. If we look at some of the other advertisements we find that bacon in the slab is advertised at 49 cents a pound; bacon squares, 31 cents per pound; smoked hams, 12 to 16-pound hams, full shank, half a ham, 53 cents a pound; lean, short shank, fresh picnic pork roast, 4 to 6 pounds each, 45 cents a pound; frying chickens, 59 cents a pound; lamb roast, 65 cents a pound; potatoes, 10 pounds for 35 cents; butter, 77 cents a pound; Velveeta cheese, 2 pounds for 89 cents.

In the very short time I had at my disposal I looked over some of the advertisements of some of the local chain stores such as Dominion, A & P and so on; and in them I have not found one price as low as those advertised in this *Detroit* paper. As I say, that only serves to confirm the experience of all the people with whom I have talked, and my own experience in travelling through the United States. I think there is no question but that, even as to food, prices are lower there; particularly when you come to things like fruits and fruit juices, prices are lower there than they are in Canada. When you come to manufactured goods of any sort, prices are much lower there. Any attempt, on the basis of the prices of groceries and meats in one store in Washington, to show that prices are higher in the United States than they are here I think is a bit feeble.

Like the Prime Minister, I have been doing a little bit of personal investigation of prices in the last little while, and have been trying to get at what people actually were paying for different goods. I have a few suggestions to make which, if carried out, I think would have at least some hope of helping to bring down the prices of goods; and these are not suggestions which go into any sort of detailed price control or anything like that.

I think that one of the difficulties in this country at the present time is that a large number of people, when they think of bringing down prices, think of only one thing, namely price control, and that there is no other remedy. It may be that the situation is getting so desperate that this will be the only remedy, but I think there are numerous other remedies which could be pursued and which have some hope of success. I should like to indicate one or two of them.

In order to do this, I propose to go in some detail into the costs, at various levels, of one product with which I have a certain amount of familiarity. I have chosen it primarily, however, because meat is the commodity which, above all others, causes complaint having regard to the cost of living. There is nothing about which there is so much