

Mr. HARKNESS: No, I am not, but I am suggesting children wear them out much more rapidly than adults and the fact that children are not taken into consideration in this definitely makes some material difference. In fact, I would suggest perhaps that is one of the reasons why the average housewife thinks your index is not correct.

*By Mr. Irvine:*

Q. If you left out children's shoes prior to the war and leave them out afterwards it would not effect your price level?—A. No. Price changes are reflected in these other things.

Mr. MAYHEW: It is the increase in shoes during this period.

The CHAIRMAN: The increase in price. Is that not what we are interested in?

Mr. FLEMING: It is the increase in the price of certain kinds of shoes unless the changes reflected in the price of men's shoes and women's shoes are themselves a fair reflection of trends in the prices of shoes of children. Mr. Marshall said a moment ago that he was satisfied that the trends in the price of men's and women's shoes gave a fair representation of the trends in the price of children's shoes. I should like to know on what scientific studies that conclusion is based because I agree with Mr. Harkness that you would find it difficult to convince most of the mothers of this country who are buying shoes for children that children's shoes and children's clothing have not risen in price faster than those of adults, and have deteriorated in quality faster in this ten years. I gather there are some studies that have been made. Can Mr. Marshall tell us about those?

The WITNESS: Let us take clothing. After all children's clothing is made of the same materials as men's and women's clothing, and boots in the same way. We did have all that information from our 1938 survey of the cost of living. You had a lot of information there of the amounts of various commodities that are consumed. We have had the prices in the Bureau. It is quite possible to test and see what commodities you can select that will be representative of the much wider range of commodities. That was certainly done very carefully at the time before we selected the commodities that would be included in the cost-of-living index.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. When was that selection made, 1938?—A. 1938.

Q. Again that does not take account of trends in the meantime.—A. It takes account of trends of prices. We get back to the same point which we have already made that if we have a new budgetary survey and set up a new consumption pattern and then make this current year your base and carry those prices back we will get the same price trend. I think we will get very close to the trend we have already shown.

Q. That is an assumption but you said a moment ago—A. Pardon me for interrupting. It is more than an assumption. We have tested this. We have tested this thing in the Bureau by setting up arbitrary budgets, by using different weights, different standards, and we do get though those tests verification of the index that we put out.

Q. That is what we want to get at, the tests you have made on which you are basing the conclusion you have drawn.

*By Mr. Johnston:*

Q. Can you give examples? The department would probably have these sample cases on record?—A. Yes.