

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Let us be clear on this column No. 3 on page 33. Is it or is it not the general cost-of-living index, or is that a separate cost-of-living index for families in urban areas?—A. The point I think is this. Just as we made a budget for urban wage-earning families based on the facts which they reported to us we did the same thing here. We got information as to what commodities each farmer produced for their cost of living needs and the quantities on this budget are based on those facts.

Q. Just tell us when that budget was made and from what number of families?—A. It was made in the same year. It was actually a larger number of families than was used in the other instance. These rate revisions made in the 1938 survey incorporate the results of expenditure records from 1,692 family groups or corresponding families. In so far as the individual items are concerned practically the only revised items were food although a few items in the clothing section were reweighted. For example I will point out men's suits and overcoats, men's windbreakers and so on. We do not pull these figures out of the air.

Q. No, I do not suggest that you do pull them out of the air but I want to know how this figure compares with the general cost-of-living index?—A. If you will look at it there you will see it compares to a great extent with what we have in the regular index.

Q. I will not take up your time nor the time of the committee on the matter as I have not looked at it.—A. I could promise, Mr. Chairman, to have a copy of this whole thing made.

*By Mr. Harkness:*

Q. Does that figure of 146·5, that is for August 1947, relate to 150·2 which is the retail price index found on page 12, or does it relate to the total index of 136·6?—A. That is exactly the same base as the other one. It is the base 1935-1939=100.

Q. For August 1937 you have a total index of 136·6 and you have on the right hand side the retail price index commodities of 150·2. Does this living cost for farmers relate to the 150·2 or to the 136·6?—A. It relates to the 136·6.

Q. So the living cost to farmers was actually 10 points higher in 1947 than it was for the general population.—A. Well that is what it is.

The CHAIRMAN: And what is the situation now?

The WITNESS: The figures are about the same right now.

The CHAIRMAN: I think this might be a convenient time to adjourn. We shall meet again this afternoon at 4 o'clock in this room.

The meeting adjourned at 1 o'clock to meet again this afternoon at 4 o'clock p.m.