

same index on the basis for 1935-39 was 79·1. There is a difference there between the figures 79·1 and the figure 64. What are the main factors in that difference?—A. Well one is the cost-of-living index.

Q. Yes.—A. The other is the wholesale price.

Q. I see. Where is the cost-of-living index referred back to the same base.—A. We do not have in this memorandum a table showing the cost of living on the 1926 index. The basis we are using in the bureau is 1935-39.

Mr. PINARD: The cost of living only starts from 1938.

The WITNESS: 1935-39 is the basis but we carry the index back. We have it back to 1913 on page 11.

Mr. CLEAVER: Mr. Marshall, I should have mentioned when I requested the chart that I would like the net figures, the net national income, the net return on agriculture and so on.

*By Mr. Winters:*

Q. My other question was with respect to the meat and fish breakdown on page 30. Mr. Marshall said, I believe, if fish were disregarded the meat and fish index in the sub-group would be 3·9 instead of 3·6—A. Yes, the index for meat would be 3·9.

Q. Which means the cost of meat is higher relatively than is the cost of fish?—A. Yes.

Q. Does that mean that if the consumption of fish were doubled the figure would be down to about 3·3?—A. Well this of course is a price change; it represents a price change, and it would probably make some difference in the figure 3·6.

Q. As the consumption of fish went up that figure for meats and fish would go down correspondingly?—A. Yes, it would.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Mr. Chairman, on the matter of the index I understand it is based on a return from the urban centres? That is correct is it not?—A. You mean the budget?

Q. Yes.—A. That is right.

Q. Is there any attempt shown in this 50 page document to relate that index to any studies you have made for the budget of families in rural areas? Does such a comparison appear in this document?—A. Yes you will find that information in section 5 on page 33. There is an item on that page for the things purchased by farmers.

Q. Well, I am trying to relate not simply the farmers cost of production but his living costs to your cost-of-living index which I understand is based on the experiences of families in urban districts.—A. We have that here on page 33.

Q. Yes, I see that column 3 shows your living cost. We can take that as a fair basis of comparison with the general cost-of-living index.—A. Those are figures on what it is costing the farmer according to our index number for the things he has to buy.

Mr. HARKNESS: Is that not the same figure as the general cost-of-living index 146·5 in August?

The WITNESS: Well, yes. Of course there are some commodities that are produced on the farm. If you want me to give you the items I have them here. There are quite a number but it is roughly comparable to what we have in the general cost-of-living index.