

Mr. BEAUDRY: Perhaps we are making it difficult. We have had no opportunity of reading the statement and we are questioning the witness a bit haphazardly. Actually, we could save time if we were given an opportunity of looking at this statement before we continue the questioning of Mr. Marshall beyond his normal explanations. We are all very much interested in it but we have had no opportunity of seeing this memorandum.

Mr. FLEMING: We are all suffering from mental indigestion.

The WITNESS: There is a technical point involved in the weighting of this animal products group. I have Mr. Greenway, my expert on the construction of this index, here. He could tell you about it.

Mr. WINTERS: If you would do that later, it would help me in referring to page 30. In the sub-group under foods, you have meat and fish lumped and the total increase is 3.6 points. Could you tell me at some later time how much is attributable to meats and how much is attributable to fish?

The WITNESS: I could tell you that right now. Fish pulls this index down. Fish has not gone up as much as meat. If you left fish out, the rise in the index would be 3.9.

*By Mr. Johnston:*

Q. Is that true of page 26? Your fish products increased to 0.6. Your only other item which increased an equal amount was boots and shoes and the only item which was higher was meats, 0.7?—A. I will try to get some better explanation of the whole picture.

Q. That would not reflect the cost to the consumer?—A. No, this other one on page 30 is the retail group.

The CHAIRMAN: Then, you are going to break this weighting table down?

The WITNESS: Yes, I will.

If you wish to proceed to the next section, we have an index number there on farm costs and receipts.

*By Mr. Harkness:*

Q. What page is this?—A. 33. We are having a bulletin prepared which will explain exactly how that index number is made up. It will be circulated. It has not been mimeographed yet, although we have it ready.

In the same section on page 34 there is the other type of index number on farm prices. This relates to prices at the farm rather than at the wholesale level.

*By Mr. Johnston:*

Q. On page 33, I understood you to say a moment ago you did not have material which would indicate why prices rose; that your department was not concerned with the reason for this rise. The only thing with which you were concerned was the fact that they did rise. On page 33, you go into detail concerning the cost of fertilizer, seed, gasoline, oil and other materials?—A. Yes, we have the prices at various levels of various groups. There is a lot of information to be gained from the perusal of these index numbers at various levels.

Q. Then, you do have material which indicates the cause?—A. In so far as you can explain the cause by index numbers at these various levels, yes.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. I do not see any trucks or vehicles on page 33; I do not see any vehicles in the equipment and materials for the farmer. There are a lot of implements, but no vehicles?