

up on a monthly basis, or have been set up. Could we have them on a monthly basis beginning January 1, 1946?—A. We will do that in so far as we have monthly figures.

Q. I appreciate that for a number of them you cannot possibly have them on a monthly basis, but on such as can be set up on a monthly basis I would appreciate having that. Is it possible to segregate, or have you any figures on domestic consumption, or do you simply prepare your statistics on the basis of imports or production and disappearance from the shelves of distributors?—A. Decennially in the census of merchandising we do have a lot of information about sales at retail on a number of commodities although a lot of the information is in groups. There is also in the Bureau information on the apparent consumption of a lot of commodities. We could get together what information we have there.

Q. It would be helpful if you would give that on the same commodities and for the same period.

Mr. CLEAVER: To complete the picture should you not also have the figures on the export of foods?

Mr. FLEMING: Yes, that would be desirable for the same period to get the complete picture. It would be desirable to have exports of the same articles for the same period.

By Mr. Harkness:

Q. There is one other list of statistics which I think might be useful to us. On page 36 you have here No. 6, indirect taxes less subsidies, 1947, a total of \$1,538 million. Can you give us a breakdown of that as to what those indirect taxes are?—A. I am afraid we will not be able to give you a complete breakdown, but we will do the best we can.

Q. You can give a very good breakdown as to what is sales tax, tariff taxes, and so forth.

Mr. CLEAVER: I have run through the percentages on that item already. You will find very little percentage change between 1938 and 1947 in that item. I rather doubt if that will be of any real help to the committee.

Mr. HARKNESS: What I was wanting to get at was the number of millions collected on food products, and so on.

Mr. CLEAVER: You will find in relation to the national income practically the same percentage was collected by way of indirect taxes less subsidies in 1947 as was collected in 1938. In 1938 it was 12.2 per cent, and in 1947 a little bit less, 11.7 per cent. Therefore, if those figures are correct obviously that could not be the cause of the present sharp increase in the cost of living.

Mr. HARKNESS: I do not think we can go ahead with any preconceived notion as to whether or not it is. I think what we want to do is get the statistics from Mr. Marshall and then we can make up our minds.

The CHAIRMAN: Having in mind the point we were discussing earlier this morning, and that I thought we had primarily brought the witness here for, I should like to go back to a question I myself submitted a while ago. I suggested the price of bread in the last short while had increased while the price of flour had decreased. I did not understand that your answer subscribed to that view, but I call your attention, Mr. Marshall, to page 20 where you have a table of wholesale price index numbers of selected commodities and commodity groups. In 1947 the price of flour, for instance, in September was 182.6, in October 182.6, November 182.6, December 179.7, January 174.4, so that the price of flour has gone down?

The WITNESS: That is right.

Mr. CLEAVER: Bread on the other hand moved up from 100 to 131.6.