



CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATIONS are concerned with the increase in food costs in Canada. In 1957, the average urban Canadian family was spending \$22.70 a week for food. As of February, 1966, the same food cost \$26.04. Figures are based on a survey in seven Canadian cities, with an average of 3.36 persons per family and income from \$3,000 to \$7,500 per year. (CP Wirephoto)

CP CROSS CANADA SURVEY PEOPLE ALARMED OVER RISING LIVING COSTS

By KEN SMITH
"To put it simply, everything is up."
That's the retailer R. E. Walker of Saskatoon talking about living costs, and his succinct phrase will strike a quick chord with Canadian consumers.

In the last year or so everyone from a housewife buying a roast or a pair of baby shoes to her husband grabbing a fast drink in a downtown bar before heading home is paying more for almost everything. In fact, it'll cost her husband more to get home too, since transportation costs are higher.

Blind Woman Is Unusual Secretary

MONTREAL (CP) — Mabel Egerton is a secretary who takes dictation by shorthand or dictaphone, types quickly and accurately, files, and handles incoming telephone calls on five lines. She also teaches music. These accomplishments may not seem unusual until you know that Mrs. Egerton has been blind since birth. She is evidence of her conviction that a blind person with proper training can be as good a secretary as one with normal vision.

Of course, she doesn't take dictation with pencil and paper as secretaries usually do. Instead, she uses a special braille shorthand slate. "I can't afford to make typing mistakes because I can't erase and I would have to start over." She cannot rely wholly on a dictaphone because she has to use shorthand for telephone messages.

As for filing, she marks her own braille code concerning matter and date in the right-hand upper corner of each paper to be filed. "I've got to be good at filing, otherwise I wouldn't deserve my job," says the full-time secretary for the Montreal Association for the Blind. She has been working there for eight years.

HAS PLASTIC NOTES
"Many people wrongly think a sighted person is a better teacher of music, but we have gimmicks such as plastic notes which many sighted teachers now are using also."

Sheets of classical music and such modern works as those of Bartok have been transcribed into braille. But if Mrs. Egerton wants a work not yet in braille, she has someone read it to her and transcribes it herself.

There are several blind music teachers in Montreal but, as far as she knows, she is the only blind secretary here.

Mrs. Egerton was educated at the Montreal School for the Blind where she learned to play the school's piano and two-keyboard organ.

After completing elementary school (which was as far as was then taught) she got a job assembling boxes in a Montreal biscuit factory.

In Vancouver the price of bacon has risen as much as 35 cents a pound to \$1.25; Edmonton reports a better-than-five-per-cent increase in real estate prices; in Winnipeg men have to fork out an extra \$5 to get a suit that would have cost \$75 a year ago; Toronto's apartment boom has been accompanied by a \$5 to \$10 increase to \$150 a month in downtown areas; Montreal cocktails cost 10 cents more and in St. John's, Nfld., a dozen eggs cost 88 cents compared with 66 cents a year ago.

Paying more is, of course, an old story. Since the end of the Second World War, the consumer price index compiled by Dominion Bureau of Statistics has declined only once on an annual basis—in 1953—and then by only one point.

RISE STIRS REACTION
During the first four years of Canada's five-year, full-blown economic growth, however, most prices remained remarkably steady. Now that they are moving higher, a Cross-Canada Survey by The Canadian Press shows, people are getting concerned and vocal.

There are demands for governmental investigations, questions in Parliament, group discussions as well as head-shaking at the meat counter. Actually, the 1965 price gains that have sparked the excitement are small compared with some the Canadian economy has lived through since the end of the war.

The DBS price index, based on 1949 equalling 100, stood at 140.3 points last December, up four points or 2.9 per cent in a year. But in 1961, for example, the index jumped 10.8 per cent or a hefty 10 1/2 per cent.

Why, then, the present furor? For one thing, coming after years of comparative price stability when the index movements were held under two per cent a year, the increases probably struck consumers more forcibly.

For another, they hit after the first report of the Economic Council of Canada had said there would be economic dangers if the rate of increase exceeded previous levels.

Thirdly, and most importantly, they brought fresh fears for the future: More prices keep going up more rapidly and, if so, how much can the economy take before cracking?

CONSUMERS WORRIED
Economists' opinion on that question conflicts sharply. Non-professional thinking, however, is more direct.

"Consumers are extremely concerned," reports Mrs. A. F. W. Plumtree, national president of the Consumers Association of Canada.

A three-cent-a-quart milk price rise in Vancouver and increases of one or two cents for milk or bread in such centres as Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Ont., Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton have been reflected in the association's mail.

bread price increase companies claimed it was on the basis of increased ingredients," he says. "Yet it's been established there was no increase in wheat."

Mrs. V. G. Staff, a member of the board of the Quebec division of the Consumers Association, suggests grocery stores should set up economy shelves and stock them with basic foods to help low-income shoppers buy supplies.

Since the DBS food-price index rose last year by 4.8 per cent—1.9 per cent more than the over-all index—it's hardly surprising that most of the consumer attention focuses on groceries. Other costs are higher too, however.

SHOP SELECTIVELY
Apartments and housing are up five to seven per cent in many cities, and Toronto builder Lawrence Shankman predicts a further similar increase during the next 12 months. Clothing costs one to five per cent more, and other increases, especially in shoes, are predicted this year.

More expensive services, especially automobile insurance, have been a significant factor in higher prices.

Of all the groups concerned in the price increase, only the consumer shows any inclination to accept part of the responsibility.

Several executives of the Consumers Association say buyers don't shop carefully enough and so don't keep competitive pressures on retailers.

"If one thing is too expensive, the housewife should buy something else," says Mrs. Plumtree. "There's nothing like no sales to force prices down."

Mrs. J. R. Walters of Saskatoon says shoppers should use lists and look around carefully.

"You probably won't get the best value for your money by just going into the first store," she says.

"People don't go out with shopping lists any more. They just walk into a store and pick off the shelf anything that appeals to them."

Otherwise, however, the instinct for self-justification appears strong.

Business blames labor for not restraining wage demands, labor blames management for not sharing profits, retailers and wholesalers blame each other and everyone attacks various governments for not checking the situation.

"It's certainly not the retailer," says Mr. Walker, who is president of the Saskatchewan Retail Merchants' Association.

"It's the government that's responsible. If they want to raise taxes and raise taxes, the cost of living will go up."

HAPPENINGS

Audrey Jenkins, Women's Editor, Phone 4-8566

Mr. and Mrs. Edison Hardy have returned to Dartmouth, N. S., after attending the funeral of Mr. Hardy's mother, Mrs. W. E. Hardy, York.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Watts of Dartmouth, N. S., also attended the funeral of Mr. Watt's grandmother, Mrs. W. E. Hardy.

Results of the card party held at Corran Bann by St. Michael's CWL were as follows: ladies' high, Mrs. Peter Hughes; special prize, Mrs. Mary Malone; gentlemen's high, Peter Hughes, special prize, Joe A. Wood. Door prize was won by A. Wood and freezout by Mrs. Mary Malone and Joe Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar DesRoches, Miscouche, have arrived home after visiting with friends in Massachusetts, U. S. A.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian DesRoches, Miscouche, left by train recently for various points in Ontario, where they will visit with their daughters, Norma and Louise.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Dennis, son Wayne, and daughter Judy, Casumpeck, spent a few days in Cape Breton visiting with relatives.

An enjoyable afternoon and evening were spent recently at the home of Mrs. Heber Gamble, Casumpeck when a number of women assembled for a quilting party. Supper was served to the guests by the hostess and a pleasant time was enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Griffin have returned to their home in Hamilton, Ont., after attending the funeral of Mrs. Griffin's father, Charles W. Mallett, Miscouche.

The happening on March 24 referring to Mrs. Fenton Court should have read: Mrs. Fenton Court, Bedford, returned home recently from a four week holiday visiting with her daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith and family in Toronto, Ont. and Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Gillespie and family in Montreal.

Women

6 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Sat., March 26, 1966.

Expo '67 To Be The Topic At Public Meeting Apr. 19

Major-General E. C. Plow of Halifax, representative of the Atlantic Provinces Expo '67 committee will be guest speaker at a public meeting in Confederation Centre, April 19 and the following evening in Summerside, under the sponsorship of the P. E. I. Women's Advisory Committee for Expo.

Many women's organizations in the province are participating in the advance sale of Expo passports and this meeting will provide those interested in this exciting project, individuals, families or passport distributors, a chance to hear something of the Fair's pavilions, especially the Atlantic pavilion. Major-General Plow's remarks will be illustrated with color slides.

Following the program, the Advisory Committee will be hostesses at a small reception for Major-General Plow at the home of Committee chairman, Mrs. Gordon MacDonald and Mrs. MacDonald, Fitzroy St.

The next meeting, the 3rd Thursday in April, will be an executive meeting only.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Cornwall WI Views Articles From Holland

A gift for a patient at the mental hospital was the response to a call at the March meeting of the Cornwall WI which was held in the school, with Mrs. Paul Garnham as hostess.

Reports of committees were given and dealt with and it was decided to put a blood donor poster in the community store. Members were honored to receive \$10 as third prize in the Safety Council Contest for Queen's county. Mrs. Harold Godfrey read a letter on "education" prepared by Mrs. Frank Ross, which proved quite interesting, and a questionnaire was filled out.

Mrs. Ralph McDonald gave a report on the leadership seminar held at the Hotel Charlottetown and it was decided to correspond with a pen pal in British Guiana with Mrs. McDonald as correspondent.

A report on Helen Herring's TV program was given by Mrs. Harold Godfrey and an invitation was read from the Red Cross office asking for members to attend the Safety Seminar and annual Red Cross meeting to be held in Confederation Centre. Mrs. Waldron Lowther, Mrs. Hazen Howard, Mrs. Harold Donahue and Mrs. Harold Scott were appointed to attend as delegates.

It was decided to contribute to gift coupon 367 which will assist institutes in the far north. Highlighting the meeting was a display of handmade articles from Holland shown by Mrs. Ayl De Hoon, Long Creek, Mrs. Jack Sobey, and Mrs. Jast Raggaveen of Cornwall.

Hostess for the April meeting will be Mrs. Gordon Worth and roll call will be answered with a verse from an old autograph album. Food committee, Mrs. George Hyde, convener, Mrs. Norman Hyde, and Mrs. Ralph McDonald, Mrs. Harold Donahue was appointed to report on "Today at Home" and Mrs. Stanley Willis as agriculture convener.

STELLA MARIS CWL
Fr. Francis Corcoran opened the March meeting of Stella Maris.

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At a recent meeting of the Committee, held at the Red Cross Headquarters in Charlottetown, vice-chairman, Wanda Wyatt of Summerside agreed to attend a conference of provincial Expo representatives in Montreal on April 15.

Ethel Sutherland described a film on Expo '67 that is available from the National Film Board, showing the site and some background information on the Fair.

Members felt, however, that so much progress has been made at Expo's location since its filming that the reel is already out of date.

Special mention was made by Mrs. Guy Fichaud of the West German handcraft exhibit currently on display in the art gallery of Confederation Centre, collected by curator Moncrieff Williamson for display at Expo next year.

The next meeting, the 3rd Thursday in April, will be an executive meeting only.

Daffodil Tea Planned By N. River WI

The March meeting of North River Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Earl Younker and members responded to roll call with articles for a fish pond.

Routine business was dealt with and an invitation was read from the Red Cross to attend a Water Safety meeting in Charlottetown. Mrs. Arthur Wheatley and Mrs. Roy Campbell were appointed to attend as delegates.

It was decided to hold a Daffodil Tea in North River hall on April 30th.

Mrs. Alan MacLean read an interesting paper on Adelaide Hoodless and the Pioneer Days of the WI. Place of meeting was undecided but roll call will be answered by a hand made article for an auction sale. Food committee will be Mrs. Elliot Wright, Mrs. Lawrence Molyneux, Mrs. Russell Wheatley and Eleanor Younker.

An entertaining time was spent when members drew articles from a fishpond, following which refreshments were served.

Economic Scholarship Fund
Mrs. Bruce Ellis reported that Parker Jewell offered to plant flowers at Stanhope corner later in the season. It was also decided that five dozen juice tumblers be bought for the hall. Next month's roll call is to be answered by each member bringing salt and pepper shakers.

Mrs. Harry Lawson read a letter on "Education" from Mrs. Frank Ross, also a questionnaire to be sent in.

Following the talk by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon MacDonald, refreshments were served by members of each group in charge.

ALPHA YORK WI
The March meeting of Alpha York WI was held in the community hall with vice president, Mrs. Walter Mallett presiding in the absence of the president.

The meeting opened with an Irish song and 20 members answered roll call with an autobiography. Reports of committees were dealt with and the following visiting committee was appointed: Mrs. Walter Mallett, Harold Taylor and Mrs. Irving MacDonald. It was decided to send a donation to the Home Economics Scholarship fund.

Mrs. Chappell reported for the safety committee advising that \$15 had been received as second prize for Queen's county in the P.E.I. Safety Council contest. A letter was read from Mrs. Evelyn Cudmore, administrator of the Carol Lane Awards, inviting the safety committee to attend a dinner at the Charlottetown Hotel, and receive the prize for placing third in the Carol Lane Provincial Safety Awards. As many members as possible were urged to attend the Safety Seminar and annual Red Cross meeting to be held at Confederation Centre. A request was also received from the editor of the Institute News for articles for the "Hither and Yon" column. Items are to be sent in by Mrs. Rubin Watts.

It was decided to continue saving Canada Packers' Labels for premiums Mrs. William Crockett read a paper on "Education" and a questionnaire was filled in.

Highlight of the meeting was a report on the leaders h-p course which was held at the Hotel Charlottetown recently, given by Mrs. Evey Simpson and Mrs. W. Stewart on "Leadership and Decision Making."

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STANHOPE WI
Guest speakers at the Stanhope WI meeting held recently at the Community Hall were Mrs. and Mrs. Gordon MacDonald who talked on "Alcohol" and "Expo '67".

The president opened the meeting and 12 members and two visitors responded to roll call by answering the question "What Constitutes A Good Citizen?" Reports of committees were heard and it was decided that band-aids and aspirin be bought for the school, and also to send a donation to "Home Economics Scholarship Fund."

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ELLEN'S DIARY

Snowdrops Were First To Push Up Into Sight

"If this were the last day..." the thought came to us this morning, "could Heaven be more fair?" And it was the last day of our workday week: a Saturday to write "The End".

And Spring, casting its shadow a bit early, its sun and light touch of wind was now on the valley. And presently here against our hillside, brooklets commenced to pattern courses about, as in every other springtime gone.

A pair of lads, one a staid, freckled chap, given mostly to books, and the other a merry no-freckled fellow, were pleased to go with the sun on their heads to dam and make a by-pass in a greater flow, to throw bridges across, and to set make-believe boats sailing off in the flow. What questions the younger one would ask: "Will they go as far as London, there where the Queen lives? Or to Europe or Asia?"

Thus he learns from the older lad, who will patiently explain things to him, though odd times his query is met with the rather jolly reply: "But, Silly one, you should already know that!"

From the window we saw them busy there, happy as other boys of the name had been before them, when engaged in like play. And our day was considerably brightened as we went to the work of our Saturday: the bakings and tidying about... We would, we planned, and this was in the nature of a pilgrimage back into the Saturdays of childhood, when we were not too much taken up with the chore-

clean and polish the everyday knives, the forks and other silver. Not as we recalled, with wood ashes from the hearth, the former, nor with whitening the latter, though we remembered gratefully those our apprentice years of housewifery.

And the hours spent away fast in what has been the mildest day of March so far. The mercury climbed to warmer heights. The snow lifted from the flower-border. And there, come all on a March day very pleasant, with Easter still in the offing, we found the snowdrops, our first flowers of the year. They had pushed up in the damp earth in winsome groupings, white waxen petals, amid the green foliage.

"There'll soon come a robin" we said. "We've decided to come to supper." Peter informed us when the sun was commencing to bed. "What are we having?" "Bacon, eggs, bread, muffins, preserve, cookies - any objections?" "None!" Alex grinned. And James came from his choring to join us. "I remember when we ate both breakfast and supper with the lights on." Peter commented. "And now it's not nearly dark." The short days are all gone now," James smiled, reaching over to pat his

head. "Only long days are ahead." Now the rose of sunset was on the fields, and its jewels in windows to the west. The trees were still, the willow's gold reminding of lovely thins- of grainfields and daisies' hearts and marsh marigolds and buttercups. So our week is gone. And what of the days ahead? As one reminds us: "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. Hitherto, His hand hath led. Hitherto, His arm protected. Hitherto His bounty fed. Will His love desert us wholly. Will His heart our need forget. Will His presence clean forsake us. Who hath never failed us yet?"

Let the past we know assure us of the present's certain aid. Till the future's dark forebodings. In the light of faith shall fade: Still He hears our supplications. As our days, our strength shall be. And His grace is all-sufficient. For the needs of you and me. Until Monday... Diary... Good-night.

MONTAGUE
A St. Patrick's Dance was held at the Montague Legion Home and music was provided by Cliff Peters, Archie Stewart, Bud Ings and Emerson O'Connor. Vocal selections were by John

Bears, Emerson O'Connor and Bud Ings. Gladys MacKinnon, Brooklyn, is a patient in the Prince Edward Island Hospital where she had undergone surgery.

An old fashioned Hooking Frolic was held at the home of Mrs. William Matheson, Brooklyn, recently. Members of the women's Institute completed a rug and a ham and salad supper was served by the ladies.

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Legion Aux. Meets At Kensington

The members of the Kensington Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary decided at the March meeting to invite another auxiliary to attend the next meeting, and discussed plans for informal entertaining. The president, Mrs. D. L. McLean, presided and the secretary, Mrs. Clair Mayhew recorded the minutes. There was an attendance of 17 members and several visitors.

Mrs. Gerald Mill and Mrs. W. G. Blakeney reported on a number of articles bought for the kitchen. Proposed menus for catering to supper meetings, etc. were reviewed by the members. The April ways and means committee will be Mrs. Gordon Bryanton, Mrs. Richard Kelly and Mrs. Eric Watson.

Mrs. John Paynter, Mrs. Stewart Hunter and Mrs. John Bernard were welcomed to the meeting by the president.

It was decided to hold the last general meeting on the fourth Tuesday in May before disbanding for the summer months.

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