

Report Meat Buying Off 25-35% In U. S.; No Drop Here

Housewives Tightening Purse Strings

Buy in Dollars Instead of Pounds

Although a wave of buyer resistance against high meat prices was reported sweeping the nation today, no appreciable decline in sales was reported in Indianapolis yet.

Grocery store and packing house officials said that business was the same as usual and that the buyer resistance wasn't being felt here yet.

A check of representative cities by the United Press showed buyer resistance was gaining momentum in other parts of the country. Some cities reported retail meat volume had dropped off as much as 35 per cent.

"Customers are buying in dollars instead of in pounds of meat," said Charles H. Brannon, executive secretary of the Associated Food Dealers of Chicago, said.

"Housewives have a certain amount of money and find out how much meat they can buy with it. They don't step up to the counter and ask for a certain amount of meat anymore," he said.

Off 25 Per Cent

Mr. Brannon said meat volume was off as much as 25 per cent. He said retailers are absorbing some of the price increases and "taking a beating" because they are afraid they might lose customers if they pass the increases on to the housewives.

He said he couldn't see why people stopped buying meat. The price is "admittedly high," he said. But it "hasn't risen any more than prices on a lot of other products."

In New York, Samuel Morganroth, counsel for the New York State Association of Retail Meat Dealers, said "business in our stores is off from 25 to 35 per cent." He said stores had the same number of customers, but the customers bought less meat.

Urge Consumer Resistance

"They just can't afford it," he said.

Meanwhile, in New York, Market Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz urged strong consumer resistance to high prices.

At Denver, one large meat dealer said his business was off "about 30 per cent." He said customers apparently did not have the money to meet high prices. However, he said he would refuse to lower the quality of his meat to sell more.

At San Francisco, large meat markets reported business had dropped at least 20 per cent during the last month. They blamed consumer resistance.

Chain store managers in Detroit said business there was dropping off "slightly." One estimate placed the drop at "8 per cent."

Blames It on Heat.

At Omaha, a packing center, Louis Kavan, secretary of the Independent Grocers and Meat Dealers of Omaha, said the meat business dropped "25 to 30 per cent" during the extremely hot weather. However, he said, since the heat broke and children have gone back to school, business has picked up slightly.

He thought consumer resistance was not to blame for the drop in business.

"I believe the extremely hot weather caused the drop in meat sales. But, we'll have to wait for cooler weather to see if I'm right," he said.

In Chicago steers sold at \$35 a hundred pounds, only \$2 under the nation's all-time high and equal to the steepest price of 1947 set last January.

Wheat and corn prices rose to a new record for the ninth consecutive day at the Chicago Board of Trade. September wheat futures sold at \$2.70 a bushel and September corn rose to \$2.53.

Tired of Unkempt Grass, Girls Clip Audubon Circle

Two teenage girls, tired of the unkempt condition of Audubon circle in the 200 block on S. Audubon rd., today decided it was time they took a hand.

Margie Dravis, 15, 262 S. Audubon rd., and Barbara Ziegler, 16, 240 S. Audubon rd., donned blue jeans and white shirts to wield man-sized lawn mowers in the small park.

"We just got tired of looking at the circle in such shabby condition," said Barbara between gasps for breath.

Margie volunteered that it was a lot of work but "it's really a lot of fun, too."

They both agreed, however, that someone else could do the chore next time.

Residents said the park has been mowed only once this summer by a crew of city employees.

In Indianapolis

EVENTS TODAY

Indiana Shoe Travellers Association—Sergeant's hall.

State Fraternity National Convocation—Athletic club.

Itets Tan Tan ceremony—Hotel Lincoln.

Springfield reunion—Sunnyside Sanatorium—rd. chapel.

Sunnyvale reunion—Sunnyvale Sanatorium—rd. chapel.

Midnight Services in Jewish Synagogues.

EVENTS TOMORROW

Indiana Shoe Travellers Association—Sergeant's hall.

Church Services—Arsenal Cannons Alumni association picnic—rd. residence.

Elizabeth Maxwell—Millserville rd.

Deaths

Elmer Morgan, 57, at Veterans' carcinoma.

George W. Chanley, 60, at 703 Somer-

ton.

Douglas H. Lee, 58, at 1014 Roach st.

Esther C. Lee.

Annie S. Dawson, 72, at Methodist, con-

gregation.

Charles R. Howe, 62, at Methodist, diabetes.

Mary F. Branson, 91, at 6124 Lowell ave.

myocarditis.

Margaret Arietta Myers, 13, at Riley.

James E. Myers, 13, at Riley.

Robert, Opal House.

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